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**German ace
Adolf Galland
led the Luftwaffe
Fighter Force
against Allied
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PLUS

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German Landsknecht Mercenaries

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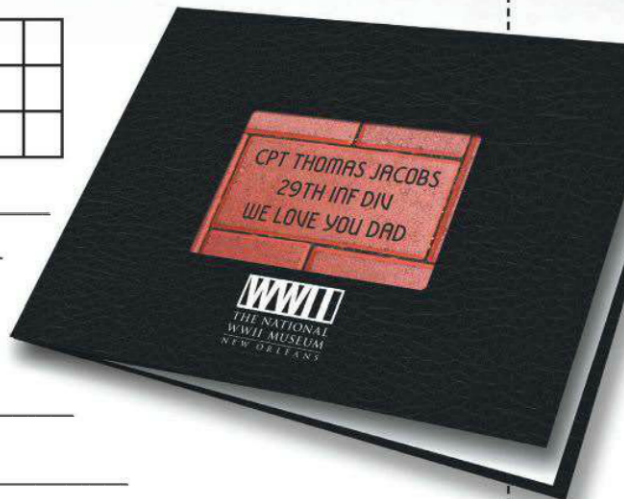
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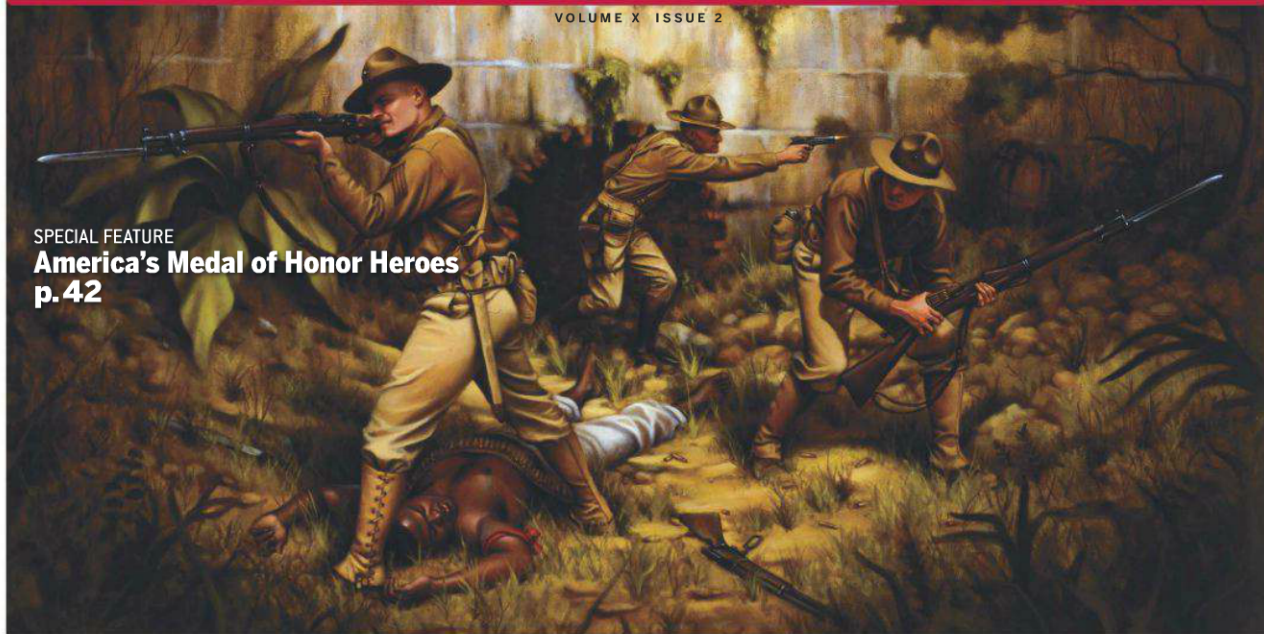
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November 16, 1915. Marine Maj. Smedley D. Butler, Sgt. Ross Iams and Pvt. Samuel Gross emerge from an old drainage tunnel at Fort Riviere, Haiti, and engage in the action that led to the capture of the fort, a Caco and Haitian bandit hideout. Each of these Marines was awarded the Medal of Honor. For Butler, it would be his second.



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TOP BAND, FROM LEFT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION; ARMCHAIR GENERAL; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Far from flocking to the Hunters' banner, Canadians took up arms to resist the invasion.

— "THE 1838 INVASION OF CANADA"

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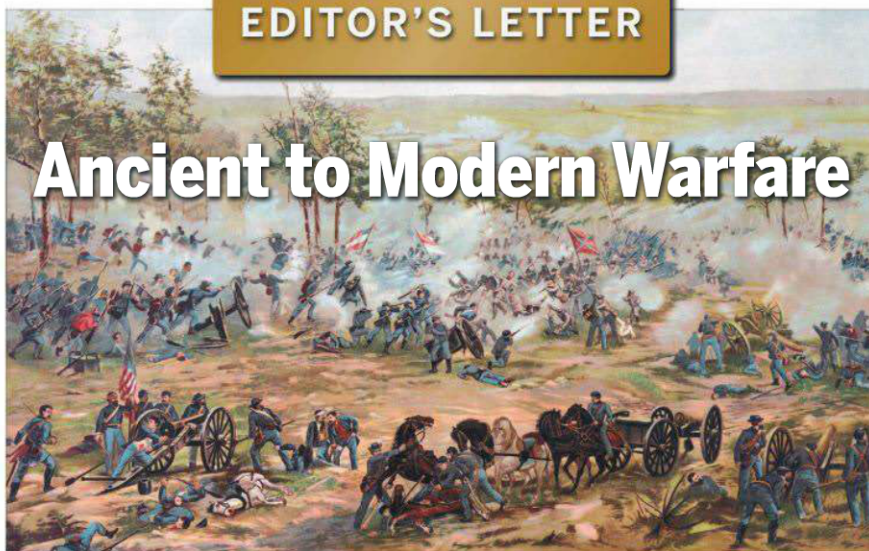


JAMES H. WILLBANKS, PhD, is a retired U.S. Army combat veteran and much celebrated historian of the Vietnam War who heads a prestigious military history academic department.



EDITOR'S LETTER

Ancient to Modern Warfare



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Battles, leaders, combat action ... and more!

The May 2013 issue of *Armchair General*® is chock-full of battles, leaders and exciting combat action. With a lineup covering a wide range of topics across 35 centuries of military history, from ancient warfare to today's operations, it offers something for everyone!

Our *Battle Studies* feature article, "The Birth of Modern War," reveals how the fields of battle were forever changed in the 1860s. Author Ralph Peters focuses on the 1861-65 American Civil War and the 1866 Austro-Prussian War to illustrate the profound – and abrupt – developments that revolutionized warfare and led the world into the modern age. Peters also writes our thought-provoking *Crisis Watch* column, which is always a must-read.

Battlefield Leader highlights the life of World War II German ace fighter pilot General Adolf Galland, who from November 1941 to January 1945 led the Luftwaffe Fighter Force against the massive Allied bomber armadas. Galland tallied 104 aerial victories, survived being shot down several times, and ended the war commanding history's first jet fighter combat unit.

Special Feature presents the inspiring story of our nation's highest valor award, the Medal of Honor, and the remarkable individuals who have received it. Author James Willbanks, head of one of America's premier military history departments, examines the medal's enduring legacy of courage and sac-

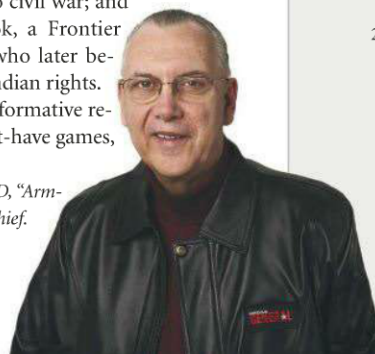
rifice from the Civil War to current operations in Afghanistan.

Our interactive articles challenge readers to exercise their tactical decision-making skills and strategic vision in historical combat actions: Civil War General Joseph Hooker leading the Union Army of the Potomac against General Robert E. Lee's vaunted Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Chancellorsville in 1863; a World War I British infantry battalion of the famed Rifle Brigade launching a daring night attack against German defenders on the Western Front in 1915; and a World War II Italian tank commander and crew fighting as part of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's legendary Afrika Korps in North Africa in 1942.

Readers also will learn about the technologically advanced chariots that revolutionized warfare in the ancient Middle East; the fierce German landsknecht mercenaries who dominated combat in 15th- and 16th-century Europe; the 1838 invasion of Canada that was launched from the United States; the hard choices President Abraham Lincoln faced as America collapsed into civil war; and General George Crook, a Frontier Army Indian fighter who later became a champion of Indian rights.

All this, plus our informative reviews of the latest must-have games, books and DVDs! ★

Jerry D. Morelock, PhD, "Armchair General" Editor in Chief.



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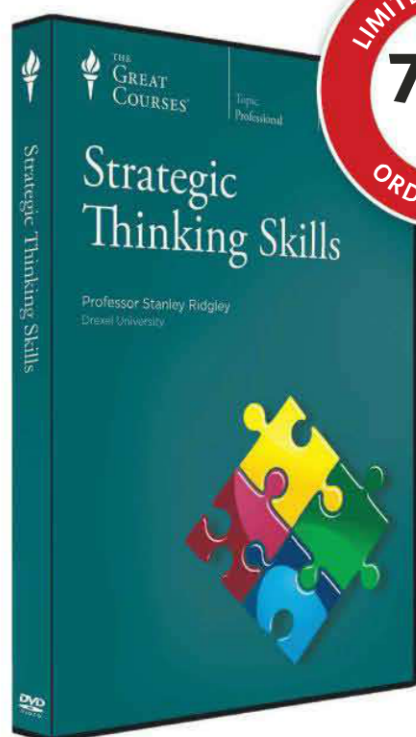
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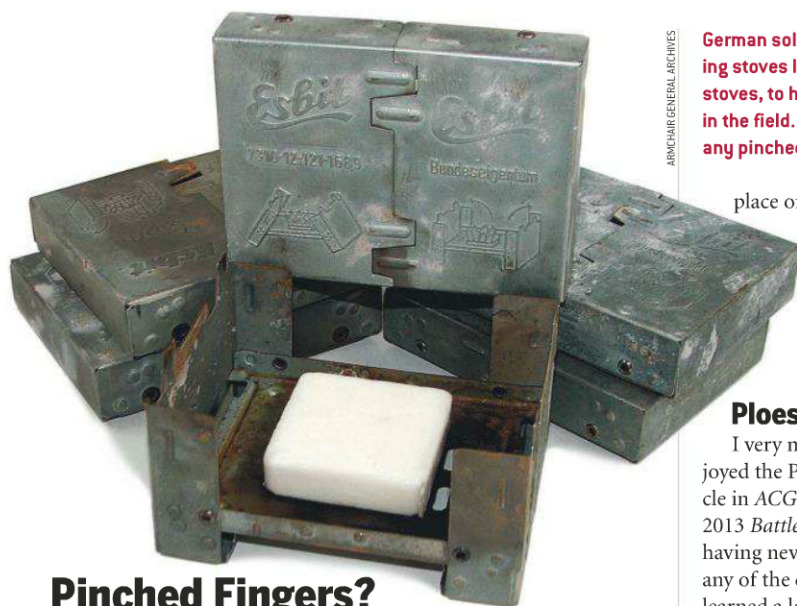
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German soldiers used small folding stoves like these, called Esbit stoves, to heat their meals while in the field. They did not report any pinched fingers!

place on the top of a mountain! Following the path of Easy Company was incredible.

DAVE McDONALD
NEW YORK

Pinched Fingers?

When I researched the article "Gourmet Grunts, 1968-70," which I wrote for the January 2013 issue of ACG, I talked to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center people at Fort Lee, Va., about the lack of a small folding stove, like the German army's Esbit stove, which could have easily been issued to U.S. troops in Vietnam to heat their field rations. They said: "There was a lot of testing, but the guys who were handling the stove always seemed to get their fingers pinched, so the decision was made it was too dangerous."

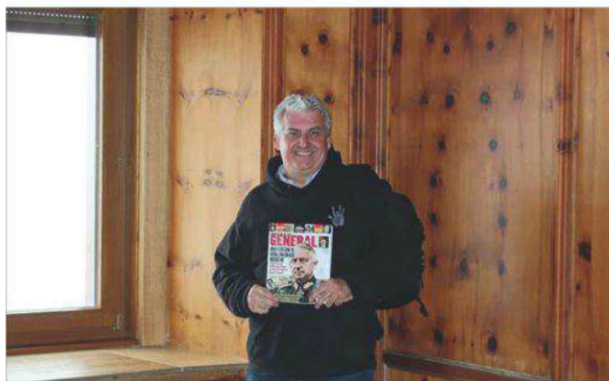
I was speechless. Too "dangerous"?! Grunts in Vietnam combat carried all imaginable tools of death: grenades, small arms, ammunition, claymore mines, C-4 explosives, flares, mortar rounds, you name it. And yet they were concerned that troops might get their fingers pinched by a *folding stove*?

PHILIP GIOIA
CALIFORNIA

Hitler's Eagle's Nest

I am a longtime subscriber and enjoy *Armchair General* immensely. It is a great magazine and I look forward to every issue's arrival.

Recently, my son and I took a "Beyond Band of Brothers" tour of Europe that culminated in a visit to Adolf Hitler's "Eagle's Nest," perched in the mountains near Berchtesgaden, Germany. This photo was taken in the Eva Braun room, which was crafted from hardwoods grown in the area. Amazing



COURTESY DAVE McDONALD

Dave McDonald shows off a copy of the November 2012 issue of ACG during his recent tour of Adolf Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" near Berchtesgaden, Germany.

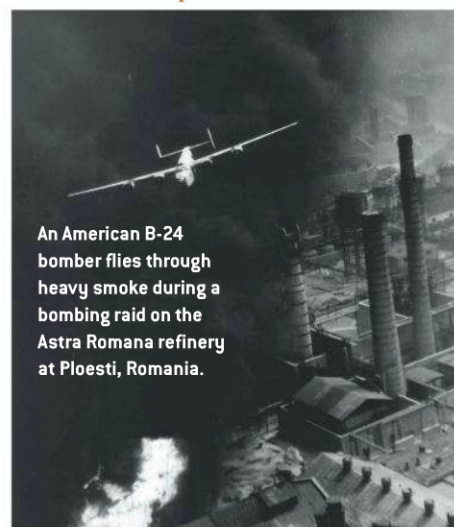
Ploesti Raid

I very much enjoyed the Ploesti article in ACG's January 2013 *Battle Studies*, having never known any of the details. I learned a lot about something I've always wondered about – except how to pronounce "Ploesti"!

M. DAVID DETWEILER
PENNSYLVANIA

The name of the target city in the Romanian oilfields struck by U.S. Army Air Forces bombers in the costly August 1, 1943, raid is pronounced Ploh-EST-ee. Detweiler is a longtime

ACG subscriber and the CEO of Stackpole Books (stackpolebooks.com), whose recent publications include these highly recommended titles: *Tortured Souls: The 29th Infantry Division in the Rhineland, November-December 1944* by Joseph Balkoski; *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg* by Tom Huntington; and *Gettysburg: The Story of the Battle With Map* by Stackpole editors.



An American B-24 bomber flies through heavy smoke during a bombing raid on the Astra Romana refinery at Ploesti, Romania.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Thanks for once again providing readers with ACG's annual Holiday Shopping Guide of recommended books and DVDs, which was printed in the January 2013 issue. I look forward to the list each year, as I always find it extremely helpful in narrowing down my choices on what gifts to purchase for friends and family and also for finding "keepers" to add to my own military history library. With so many books and DVDs for sale, your recommendations really help separate the wheat from the chaff!

R.G. FOLGER

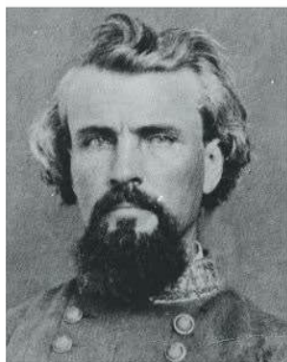
My great grandmother's name was Amanda Forrest, and thus I am always fascinated to learn more about this larger-than-life general.

— HONEY SHARP

Thank you for the positive feedback! We are pleased that our recommendations help our readers narrow down their choices for the "best of the best" in military history books and DVDs.

Forrest Issue

Quite by accident, while traveling I discovered your most informative *Battlefield Leader* article on my relative, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. My great grand-

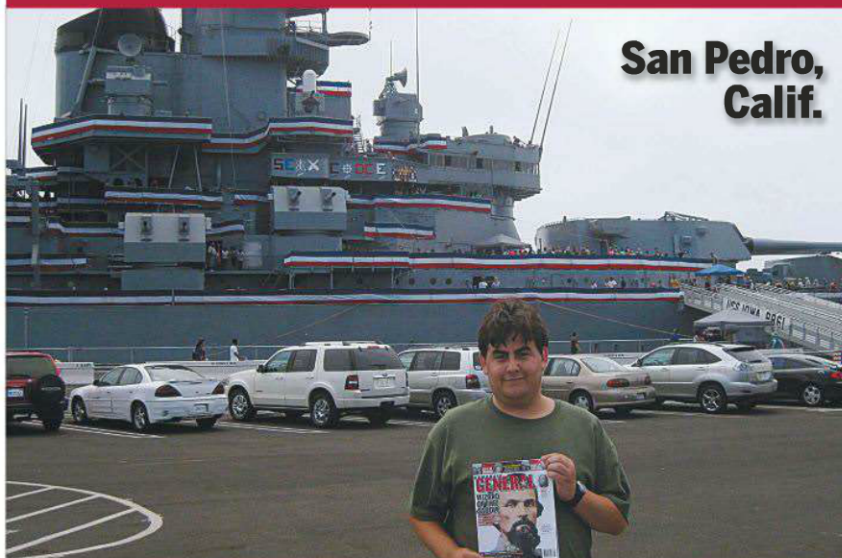


Our September 2012 *Battlefield Leader* article on Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest sparked a number of letters and emails from our readers.

mother's name was Amanda Forrest, and thus I am always fascinated to learn more about this larger-than-life general.

I bought the September 2012 issue in an airport, but unfortunately I lost it. I'd like to have a copy of it for my chil-

Where in the World is ACG?



San Pedro, Calif.

I have read *Armchair General* magazine for about two years now and have completely enjoyed every issue since the first one I picked up.

I went to see the newly opened USS *Iowa* Museum in San Pedro a week after it opened and brought along the September 2012 issue of ACG for a photo op. The museum is a fantastic place to visit and I will be returning in the future when more parts of the ship are open for tours.

Thanks for the great magazine. I hope to

enjoy reading it for many years to come!

JACOB DOUGLAS

Commissioned in 1943, USS *Iowa* is a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War. On July 12, 2012, it opened in San Pedro as the Pacific Battleship Center floating museum. Readers who wish to become a member of this non-profit organization, and those who want to make a tax-deductible donation, can visit pacificbattleship.com.

dren to read. Please let me know how I might obtain one and how much it would cost to have it mailed. Thank you.

HONEY SHARP

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Trust Isn't a Strategy

False allies betray our interests abroad.

BY RALPH PETERS

President Ronald Reagan had it right: “Trust, but verify.” Which, if you think about, means: “Don’t trust them at all.” In dealing with states we’ve convinced ourselves are allies – despite abundant evidence to the contrary – last year, 2012, saw our diplomats and decision-makers at their most willfully naïve. We trusted extremists, oppressors and sponsors of terror. And we paid for it, in blood, money and shame.

Consider a few examples:

- *In Libya*, four Americans, including an ambassador, died when our consulate and a CIA post were attacked. Managers at the State Department had chosen to entrust security to undisciplined and dubious local militias, rather than to our military (which State’s left-wing faction despises). Foggy Bottom bureaucrats put more faith in thugs than in our Marines.

- *In Syria*, the U.S. administration, searching for a clean, cheap way to support the rebels opposing the Assad regime (which helped kill many Americans), bewilderingly handed the mission to the Saudis and the Qataris. Our intent was to foster democracy and the rule-of-law. But the last thing the Saudis and the Gulf sheikhdoms want is a democratic, rule-of-law Syria with women’s rights and religious freedom. The Saudis want to make Syria a poor-man’s Saudi Arabia. So, inevitably, the arms supplies didn’t go to pro-democracy fighters, but to Islamist factions and al-Qaeda allies. The result was to dramatically strengthen fanatics who initially had been bit-players in the uprising. Our policy was one of the dumbest in our history.

- *In Egypt*, we trusted Muslim hard-liners to keep their word about building a lawful democracy. When they forced through a “plug-in-sharia-when-ready” constitution, our response was ... nothing. The billions in U.S. aid continued without interruption.

- *In Russia*, the administration’s trust in its famous “re-set” was viewed by strongman Vladimir Putin as a green light to rig elections, stage show trials of his opponents, imprison protesters, and support our enemies with arms, technology and diplomacy.

- *In Iraq*, we continued to pretend that a religious-partisan strongman was a democratic leader uniting the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki embraced Iran, allowed arms and activists to flow to regime supporters in Syria, shut out American business interests, and tried to deny the Kurds fundamental geographic and political rights.

- *In Pakistan*, we continued to pay billions in tribute money to a militarized state that actively promotes the killing of U.S. troops in Afghanistan – while continuing to shield anti-U.S. terrorists. As cowardly as we are unimaginative, we pretend that the Pakistanis are ever on the verge of reforming themselves. They laugh and cash the checks.

Nor, to be fair, is this a sin committed only by the current administration. The Bush administration trusted every Middle-Eastern con-man who could shout “Democracy!” while shoving his hand so deep in our pockets it tickled our ankles.

Of course, the correct remedy for our gullibility isn’t to rush to the other extreme of paranoia. The correct stance in foreign relations and security matters is to maintain a healthy skepticism. Other governments and factions will act in their own perceived self-interest. And their interests will not always match our interests. That elementary realization is the starting point.

2012 was a tragic year of missed opportunities. After a decade of trying to do too much abroad, we swung the pendulum to doing far too little. Timidity should not be mistaken for moderation. Foreign-policy problems are like cavities: They rarely get better on their own. It’s essential to go to the strategic dentist as soon as you feel the pain.

Watch: Will post-Assad Syria be plagued by Islamist fanatics? Will Libya? Will democracy disappear again in Egypt? In Russia? Will Pakistan continue to support terror with our funding?

Crisis Watch Bottom Line: Trust is for your spouse, not for diplomacy. ★

Ralph Peters writes regularly for “Armchair General” and is the author of the new Civil War novel “Hell or Richmond.”



LEFT: November 21, 2012. Members of the Committee for Promotion of Virtues and Prevention of Vice stand guard on top of a building with a freshly painted wall

bearing the name of the committee in Arabic at their headquarters in al-Bab, northern Syria.

RIGHT: December 21, 2012. An Egyptian protester is carried on the shoulders of others during demonstrations against the military junta, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF).

The protests converged in Cairo’s Tahrir Square in one of the bloodiest weeks after the Egyptian revolution as more than 50 protesters were killed during clashes with police.



TOP: FRANCISCO LOENG/GETTY IMAGES; BOTTOM: MOSAB ELSHAMY



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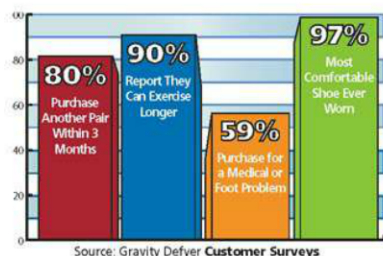


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DISPATCHES

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U.S. Pilots Receive French Valor Awards



OFFICIAL U.S. ARMY PHOTOGRAPH

Two U.S. Army 10th Combat Aviation Brigade pilots each received the Cross for Military Valor with Silver Star, one of France's highest military awards, October 23, 2012, at the residence of the ambassador of France in Washington, D.C.

Captain Benjamin H. March, commander of D Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Six Shooters, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keenan A. Bachmeyer of C Company "Bluemax," 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Phoenix, earned the awards for their courage and exemplary conduct during a December 28, 2010, mission in eastern Afghanistan while providing air support to a contingent of the "Jehol" unit of French special forces operating just outside the capital city of Kabul.

While flying in their OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter above the Alasay Valley, the two pilots took enemy fire. "We were responding to troops in contact,"

March said. "Special forces were taking fire, and we were trying to identify where the fire was coming from when a bullet came through the chin bubble of the cockpit next to [Bachmeyer's] feet and up past my head and hit a panel. It hit one of the blades on the way out."

The panel shattered, and its shards hit Bachmeyer's knee and March's face, cutting the men.

The pilots had flown over the area for two to three hours, providing situational awareness to the French troops by letting them know where enemy fire was coming from. According to a news release from the French Embassy, the actions of March and Bachmeyer made a significant impact on protecting the lives of the members of the Jehol unit.

In remarks following the award presentation, General Bertrand Ract-Madoux, chief of staff of the French army, described the event as "the fruit of a mutual commitment" in Afghanistan between France

October 23, 2012. Capt. Benjamin H. March and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keenan A. Bachmeyer, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilots with 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, each receive the Cross for Military Valor with Silver Star, one of the highest French military awards, during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Pictured (from left) are French Gen. Bertrand Ract-Madoux, chief of staff of the French army; March; Bachmeyer; and Gen. Lloyd Austin III, vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army.

and the United States. He also expressed his satisfaction in being able to honor the U.S. pilots "on behalf of the French soldiers whose lives were saved." Also present was General Lloyd Austin III, U.S. Army vice chief of staff.

"It was a big honor," March said of receiving the award. "I definitely didn't expect that level of attention. I'm very humbled by it."

Bachmeyer agreed. "I'm very

humbled, especially coming from such a high level of the French military," he said. "I'm very honored."

— Story by Staff Sergeant Todd L. Pouliot, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. Information from a French Embassy news release was used in this story.

The French Cross for Military Valor (Croix de la Valeur Militaire) was created in 1956, and in 2011 it was authorized to be presented to "members of Allied military forces who committed an act of valor or performed valorous service while on joint operations with French forces."

Marine Receives Silver Star for Afghanistan Combat

U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant Paul Worley, an infantry platoon sergeant with Kilo Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, was awarded the Silver Star Medal at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 17, 2012.

Worley, a native of Eden, N.C., received the medal for his heroic actions of July 12, 2010, while serving as squad leader of



MARINE STAFF SGT. JIMMY BENTON

July 17, 2012. Marine Staff Sgt. Paul Worley, an infantry platoon sergeant with 3d Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, receives the Silver Star during an award ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

1st Squad, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1, Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, in support of operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"I give special thanks to my parents for putting up with me," said Worley. "Also, I want to thank the Marines who were with me. You guys have a special place in my heart."

Worley and his squad provided flank security for a route clearance platoon as part of Operation Roadhouse I. During the operation, the enemy initiated a coordinated attack

using sniper fire, rockets and rocket propelled grenades. Worley exposed himself to enemy fire to efficiently direct his squad's counterattack to suppress the enemy fighting positions.

"He was the best squad leader I had ever had," said Sergeant Jacob Schmitt, an FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile gunner for Worley's squad during the 2010 deployment. "When you are in an infantry unit for so long, you get kind of close in combat."

Worley and his squad sustained their efforts under intense enemy fire for approximately five hours. When numerous Ma-

rine machine-gunners began to run low on ammunition, Worley ran between compounds to resupply his men. During one of those trips he was shot in his right thigh. However, his courage did not waver in the face of adversity. He tended to his wounds and directed a corpsman to a more seriously injured Marine.

In addition to courage, Worley showed commitment to his mission and refused to be medically evacuated until he saw fit. "My adrenaline was so high," he said. "When I got hit, I scooted behind a wall and dressed my wound. Once I did that, I continued what I was

doing and took a few more trips to get the ammunition. My command wanted to evacuate me, but I explained the situation to them and I got to stay until it was dark out."

Worley continued to move about the battlefield under seemingly endless waves of enemy direct fire. With self-reliance and great determination, he led his squad until the enemy was suppressed.

"It's definitely one of those moments you never forget," said Worley. "It's easy to be in charge when you have the Marines that I had with me."

— Story by Private 1st Class Demetrius Morgan, 11th MEU.

Over There: Doughboys in the Great War

Production begins this spring on the four-part documentary series *Over There: Doughboys in the Great War*, presented by Dale Dye. Filming of the battle re-enactment scenes is planned for locations in or near Fort Benning, Ga. Slated for release in 2017, the centennial year of America's entry into World War I, the series will be distributed by American Public Television.

Dye, a retired Marine captain, actor, author and founder of Warriors Inc. (warriorsinc.com) whose efforts have resulted in the superb re-creation of combat action in *Saving Private Ryan*, *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific*, says of the new World War I series: "It will be an in-depth, intriguing and inspiring look at one of the most pivotal and costly conflicts in the history of mankind. It will give our audiences a feel for the brutal, dehumanizing experi-



LEFT: Dale Dye will host the four-part documentary series *Over There: Doughboys in the Great War*, which begins production this spring. ABOVE: American Soldiers of 132d Infantry Regiment, 33d Infantry Division, man a trench line overlooking the Meuse River north of Verdun during World War I.

ence of static war in muddy, bloody trenches."

Over There: Doughboys in the Great War is a co-production of independent filmmakers Livingbattlefield and the National Infantry Foundation (nationalinfantryfoundation.org), the non-profit organization that operates the National In-

fantry Museum and Soldier Center in Columbus, Ga.

The documentary's director and executive producer, Richard Lanni, states, "Rats, waterlogged trenches, barbed wire and shell holes will add to the authenticity of the series. Our re-enactors will be young U.S. Army veterans."

WORTHY CAUSES

Birdies for the Brave, founded by Hall of Fame golfer Phil Mickelson and his wife, Amy, is a non-profit PGA-supported organization that funds military outreach programs benefitting men and women in the U.S. armed forces and their families. Readers are encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation at birdiesforthebrave.com.

National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, located in Columbus, Ga., is a world-class facility that pays tribute to the U.S. Army infantryman and those who fight alongside him. The museum receives no government funding and therefore welcomes tax-deductible donations at nationalinfantrymuseum.org.



TOP: COURTESY BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE; BOTTOM: NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM AND SOLDIER CENTER

FIGHTING WORDS

"Should we be involved in war, the suffering of millions will bear testimony to the folly and wickedness of our aggressors."

— CONFEDERATE PRESIDENT JEFFERSON DAVIS' INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF FEBRUARY 18, 1861, TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR BEGAN (SEE *HARD CHOICES*, p. 18)

"Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

— CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR, AMERICA'S HIGHEST VALOR AWARD (SEE *SPECIAL FEATURE*, p. 42)



"Now we could do nothing but fly and fight and do our duty as fighter pilots to the last."

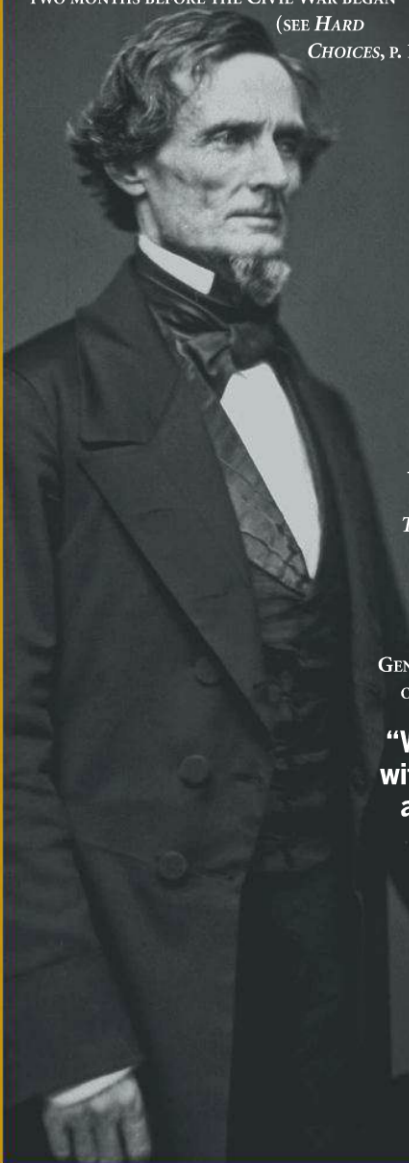
— WORLD WAR II LUFTWAFFE GENERAL ADOLF GALLAND RECALLING THE WAR'S LAST WEEKS IN HIS MEMOIR, *THE FIRST AND THE LAST* (SEE *BATTLEFIELD LEADER*, p. 24)

"May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none."

— UNION ARMY OF THE POTOMAC COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER'S WARNING BEFORE THE 1863 BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE (SEE *WHAT NEXT, GENERAL?*, p. 66)

"With a fair and square system of dealing with him, the American Indian would make a better citizen than many who neglect the duties and abuse the privileges of that proud title."

— GENERAL GEORGE CROOK IN HIS 1884 ADDRESS TO WEST POINT CADETS (SEE *LEADER*, p. 80)



LEFT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION; TOP: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; RIGHT, FROM TOP: ROGER VOLETT/GETTY IMAGES; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

TREASURES OF THE ARMY MUSEUM

Arming the Revolution: Amusettes Manufactured in Stafford, Va.

This amulette, one of four from the Rappahannock Forge, was manufactured about 1777 and is the earliest American-made

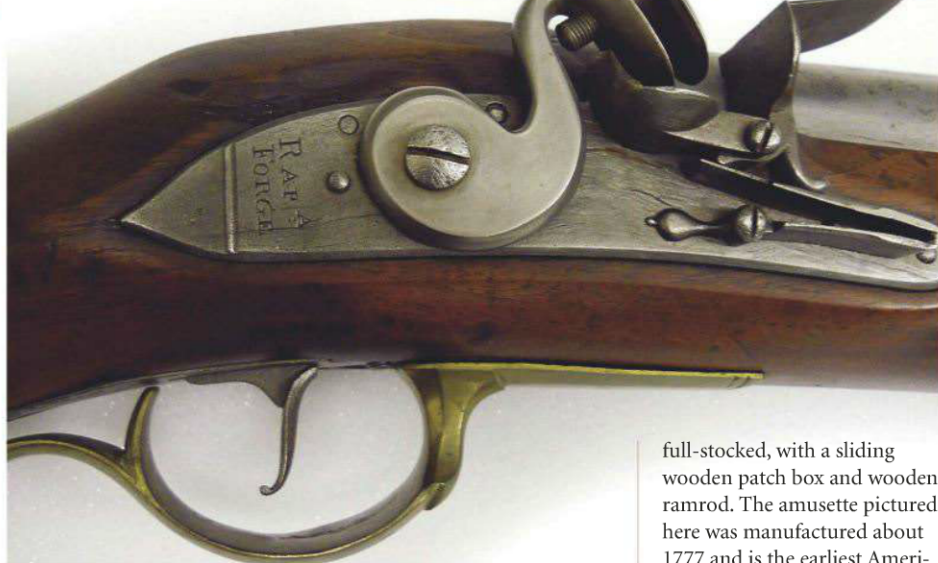


firearm in the U.S. Army Core Collection at the Museum Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.

A close-up view of the amulette shows its Rappahannock Forge stamp.

Between 1776 and 1782, the Rappahannock Forge in Stafford, Va., manufactured pistols, muskets and amusettes. Defined by the French as light artillery, amusettes also were called boat guns, rampart guns or wall guns. Used for protection on boats or in fortifications, these large, semi-portable but usually stationary muskets bridged the gap between shoulder-fired muskets and artillery. They weighed about 50 pounds each, were mounted on a steel swivel and could fire a 4-ounce or 1.2-inch shot.

When the American Revolution began in 1775, Virginia established a state-operated gun factory along the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, called the Fredericksburg Manufactory. Initially, the facility repaired firearms already owned by the colony. Although the facility began the production of muskets by mid-1776, to bolster the supply of weaponry, Virginia also contracted with the Rappahannock Forge, which lay directly across from the state facility on the Stafford side of the Rappahannock River. Also known as the Hunter Iron Works, it was privately operated by Scottish emi-



grant James Hunter between May 1776 and April 22, 1782.

On February 4, 1776, Fielding Lewis, commissioner of the Fredericksburg Manufactory, wrote to his brother-in-law, George Washington: "I propose making a Rifle next week to carry a quarter of a pound ball. If it answers my expectation, a few of them will keep off ships of war for out narrow rivers, and be useful in the beginning of an engagement by land."

Although wall guns were little used during the Revolutionary War, their effectiveness was

attested by General Charles Lee, who wrote from Williamsburg in 1776: "I am likewise furnishing myself with 4-ounced rifle-amusettes, which will carry an infernal distance; the 2-ounced hit a half sheet of paper 500 yards distance."

There are no known surviving amusettes from the Fredericksburg Manufactory. However, four examples from the Rappahannock Forge survived the war and are in the U.S. Army historical collection. The massive rifles are brass mounted, roughly 5 feet long,

full-stocked, with a sliding wooden patch box and wooden ramrod. The amulette pictured here was manufactured about 1777 and is the earliest American-made firearm in the U.S. Army Core Collection at the Museum Support Center in Fort Belvoir, Va. The other examples are located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; Springfield Armory, Mass.; and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

— Submitted by Colonel (Ret.) Robert Dalessandro and Dieter Stenger, Curator, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

For information about the National Museum of the U.S. Army, slated to open in 2015, visit armyhistory.org.

Tin Shed Museum's Extraordinary Find

Andrew Isaacs and Seimon Pugh-Jones of the Tin Shed Experience (tinshedexperience.co.uk), the outstanding museum in Laugharne, Wales, that provides visitors a fascinating “glimpse into the past” of what life was like in the 1940s, report an extraordinary find at a local flea market – a camera that may have taken one of World War II's most famous photographs.

According to documentation accompanying the Super Ikonta B 531/16 camera, it once belonged to James Mapham, who as a combat cameraman in the British Army Film and Photographic Unit during World War II photographed operations in North Africa and Europe. He passed away in 1968.



ABOVE: This Super Ikonta B 531/16 camera, found at a Welsh flea market, is linked to famed British army war photographer James Mapham. **RIGHT:** James Mapham's iconic photograph of British soldiers coming ashore at Sword Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

Mapham also served as Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's official photographer during the war, taking pictures of “Monty” with such notables as Winston Churchill, King George VI, General Charles de Gaulle and Gen-

eral Dwight D. Eisenhower. Yet Mapham's most famous photographs, including one acclaimed by some as “the greatest photo of the war,” were taken at Sword Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, as British forces came ashore during

the Allied invasion of France.

Thus Pugh-Jones (a professional photographer with an avid interest in World War II combat photography, and formerly *Armchair General* magazine's staff photographer) and Isaacs are thrilled at the potentially historic flea market discovery. Further research into the camera's background continues, and Pugh-Jones explains, “If this camera is the one to take that famous D-Day photograph, it would be a hugely significant find.” Yet, he concludes, even if the D-Day provenance of the camera cannot be verified, “just to own a camera used at war by James Mapham and knowing what scenes it captured is a joy in itself.”

— Submitted by Andrew Isaacs and Seimon Pugh-Jones of the Tin Shed Experience Museum, Laugharne, Wales.

LEFT: COURTESY, SEIMON PUGH-JONES; RIGHT: JAMES MAPHAM

Anglo-Boer War Cape Rebels Memorial

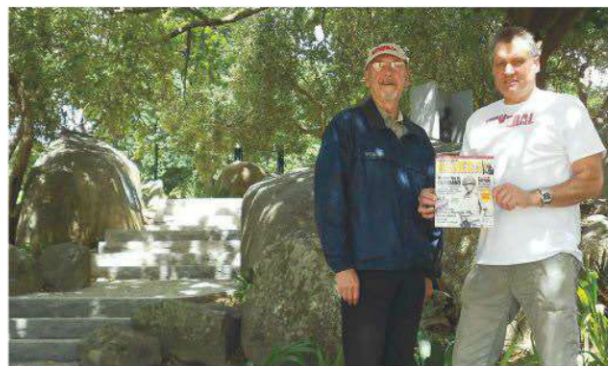
Deetlefs du Toit (right), a South African Member of Parliament and longtime *Armchair General* subscriber, holds a copy of *ACG*'s premier issue (Volume 1, Number 1, March 2004) while giving *ACG* Editor in Chief Jerry Morelock a guided tour of the historic Anglo-Boer War Cape Rebels Memorial in Paarl, South Africa.

The memorial was erected in honor of the Cape Afrikaners who rose up to oppose British aggression. It commemorates the valiant but ultimately unsuccessful 1899-1902 struggle against British imperialism by the Boers, descendants of South Africa's original Dutch settlers. Although the Boers' tactical effectiveness (in both conventional and guerrilla operations) and unexcelled marksmanship exacted a heavy toll on the

British invaders, Britain's greatly superior numbers and ruthless countermeasures (scorched-earth devastation and brutal “concentration camps” in which nearly 30,000 Boer women and children died) ultimately prevailed.

The powerfully moving memorial is located in the same grove of oak trees where Boer

farmers and a large contingent of womenfolk first gathered to organize resistance by the Cape Colony Afrikaners in support of the two independent Boer republics (Orange Free State and the Transvaal) invaded by Britain. Cape Afrikaners had suffered cultural and language discrimination under Britain's rule in the Cape Colony since



1806 when a large military force invaded and defeated the Cape Town-based Batavian (Dutch) Republic and imposed British colonial rule.

Previously, du Toit and Morelock had collaborated as co-authors of the article “South African Boer Fighters, 1880-1902,” in *ACG*'s July 2012 *Great Warriors* department. Du Toit's outstanding two-part web article “South Africa's Boer Fighters in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902,” which expanded and enhanced the *Great Warriors* piece, is posted online at armchairgeneral.com, as are additional photos of the memorial and the beautiful and historic Paarl region of South Africa.

ACG extends a special thanks to Willem Johannes Naude of Paarl, South Africa, for taking the photos. Not only is he a champion long-range marksman, he is also a superb photographer!

WILLEM JOHANNES NAUDE

APRIL & MAY

"TURNING-POINT" EVENTS

APRIL 26, 1945

Adolf Galland's Last Mission

While commanding the World War II Luftwaffe's Jagdverband (special fighter unit) 44 – history's first jet fighter combat unit – German ace Adolf Galland is wounded when his Me 262 jet is attacked by an American P-47 fighter plane.



An Me 262 jet in flight.

Although Galland tallies his 103d and 104th aerial victories before being shot, his injury causes this to be his last flying mission. (See *Battlefield Leader*, p. 24.)

Capable of reaching a speed of nearly 550 mph, the Me 262 jet is a revolutionary development in aerial warfare and a giant technological leap beyond the era's piston-driven planes. Yet its introduction into combat in February 1945 – less than three months before Germany's final defeat – comes too late for it to help the Luftwaffe turn the tide of war against the massive Allied air armadas.



MAY 3, 1863

Second Battle of Fredericksburg

Executing a key part of Union Major General Joseph Hooker's strategy in the Chancellorsville campaign (April-May 1863), Major General John Sedgwick leads 25,000 Army of the Potomac Soldiers in an attack against Confederate Army of Northern Virginia defenders at Fredericksburg, Va. Although heavily outnumbered, the 12,000 Confederates commanded by Major General Jubal Early occupy strong entrenchments at Marye's Heights overlooking the town – the same position from which Confederates slaughtered attacking Union troops in the December 1862 First Battle of Fredericksburg. After three charges, Union troops finally carry Marye's Heights at bayonet point. Meanwhile, west of Fredericksburg at Chancellorsville, Hooker, with the bulk of the Army of the Potomac, faces the Union Army's arch nemesis – General Robert E. Lee. (See *What Next, General?* p. 66.)



May 1863. The bodies of Confederate Soldiers killed during the Second Battle of Fredericksburg lie behind the stone wall of Marye's Heights, Va.

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS

Arm yourself for your next verbal combat with these fast facts about unusual weapons.

ROADKILL MISSILES.

During ancient and medieval siege warfare, besieging armies catapulted animal carcasses (or human corpses) into a surrounded fort or city to promote the spread of the disease that could weaken or kill defenders.

HEAVY CAV-ALRY. Ancient armies (including those of India, Greece and Carthage) used war elephants to terrorize or tram-



Carthaginian war elephants terrorize Roman soldiers during the Punic War.

War and even World War II. **STINGING DEFEAT.** The stunning German World War I victory in Africa over a much larger British force in the November 1914 Battle of Tanga (aka Battle of the

Bees) was aided by swarms of angry bees that descended upon British troops.

BAT BOMBS. In World War II, the United States developed a bomb consisting of an

airdropped canister containing 1,000 live bats carrying tiny incendiary devices. Although the bomb was intended to start fires in Japan's largely wooden-structure cities, it never saw combat.

CROC FEAST. In the February 1945 Battle of Ramree Island in Burma, as many as 500 Japanese soldiers were killed by crocodiles while retreating through a swamp in an attempt to elude a pursuing British force.



German and British forces clash at the Battle of Tanga – also known as the Battle of the Bees. [Painting by Martin Frost.]

TOP: © PRISMA ARCHIVO/ALAMY; BOTTOM: ARMCHAIR GENERAL ARCHIVES

ULLSTEIN BILD

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

German Landsknechte

These fierce mercenaries dominated warfare in Europe from the late 15th to mid-16th centuries.

Landsknechte (singular Landsknecht, German for “servant of the country”) were heavily armed, flamboyantly dressed pikemen and foot soldiers whose skill in combat made them the finest fighting men in Europe from the late 15th to mid-16th centuries. Most landsknechte were recruited from the poor in the region that is today southern Germany, although eventually their ranks included men from other parts of Europe, as well.

Originally, landsknecht units were formed to fight in the armies of Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, who reigned from 1493 to 1519. However, high demand for their superb fighting abilities soon led to their widespread use as hired mercenaries in

armies throughout Europe. It was not unusual for landsknecht mercenary units to fight on *both* sides of a battle.

Landsknechte fought in massed “pike square” formations (patterned after those developed by the Swiss) that contained up to several thousand troops. Their well-earned reputation as the era’s most feared soldiers was largely due to their skill in wielding the weapons with which they were heavily armed. These included the steel-tipped pike, usually 14-18 feet long; the two-handed zweihänder, a massive broad sword up to 6 feet long that could easily lop off the head of an opponent’s pike or

swiftly dismember a pikeman; the katzbalger, a short sword that was deadly in close combat; and the arquebus, an early version of the matchlock musket that could disrupt an opposing troop formation. Soldier Paul Dolstein, who fought for the king of Denmark at the July 1502 siege of Älfsborg Fortress in Sweden, wrote of the deadly effectiveness of landsknechte in combat: “We were 1,800 Germans, and we were attacked by 15,000 Swedish farmers ... we struck most of them dead.”

Landsknechte were easily distinguishable by their flamboyant, typically outlandish clothing. In an era when commoners were prohibited by law from wearing colorful, gaudy or expensive attire, landsknechte were granted an imperial exemption. They wore oversized flat hats festooned with feathers and sported colorful clothing with “puff and slash” decoration. In particular, landsknechte favored huge sleeves of billowing fabric (puff) with long cuts (slashes) revealing underlying mismatched bright colors. These flashy costumes clearly set them apart from the era’s common soldier, which was exactly as the landsknechte intended.

While on campaign, landsknechte were supported by a virtual army of mainly women camp followers (usually their wives, sisters or daughters) who cooked, cleaned, foraged for food and handled all menial chores. In the wake of a battle, the camp followers also looted valuables from the opposing side’s dead and finished off its wounded.

In the mid-16th century, gunpowder weapons (muskets, pistols and artillery) began to flood European battlefields. This gunpowder revolution quite literally “blasted apart” the tactical dominance of the massed pike square. Landsknechte, Europe’s dominant Great Warriors for nearly a century, then became obsolete. ★

*Jerry D. Morelock, PhD, “Armchair General”
Editor in Chief.*

FAST FACTS

NAME: Landsknechte
(singular landsknecht)

ACTIVE: Circa 1487-1556

FAVORITE WEAPONS:
Pike, zweihänder, katzbalger, arquebus

FAVORITE TACTICS:
Massed “pike square” formation, close combat

MILESTONES: 1487 – first landsknecht unit formed by Maximilian I; July 1502 – siege and capture of Älfsborg Fortress; February 24, 1525 – Battle of Pavia

BOOKS: *Landsknecht Soldier, 1486-1560* by John Harald Richards (Osprey, 2002)

German landsknechte, easily identified by their flamboyant and outlandish clothing, were the Renaissance era’s toughest fighting men.



"There is no better teacher than history in determining the future." – Bill Gross



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Lincoln Chooses War, 1861

How America's president led his country into the Civil War.

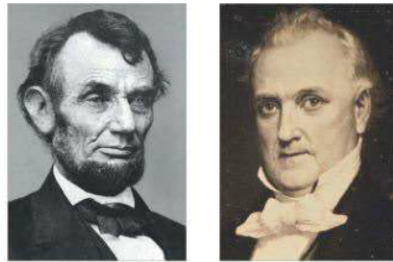
On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln of Illinois was elected president of the United States. Running against a split Democratic Party (two Democratic candidates), with a Unionist Party candidate further fragmenting the vote, Lincoln won with a plurality (39 percent) of the popular vote. He carried solely Northern and Western states and won none in the South. By February 1, 1861, just over a month before Lincoln's March 4 presidential inauguration, seven Southern states – South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas – had seceded from the Union. They declared themselves the Confederate States of America and elected Jefferson Davis of Mississippi as their president. Then on April 12, 1861, Confederate artillery fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, S.C., in what became the opening shots in a bloody, four-year-long Civil War. Recent scholarship estimates that during the war at least 750,000 Americans died (over 2 percent of the country's 1860 population), while an equally appalling number were wounded, with many left crippled for life.

During the five crucial months between the election and the day the first shots were fired upon Fort Sumter, Lincoln faced critical

decisions. The choices he made – particularly those regarding a possible peaceful compromise and the April 1861 attempt to relieve the fort – made the bloodiest war in American history inevitable.

COMPROMISE

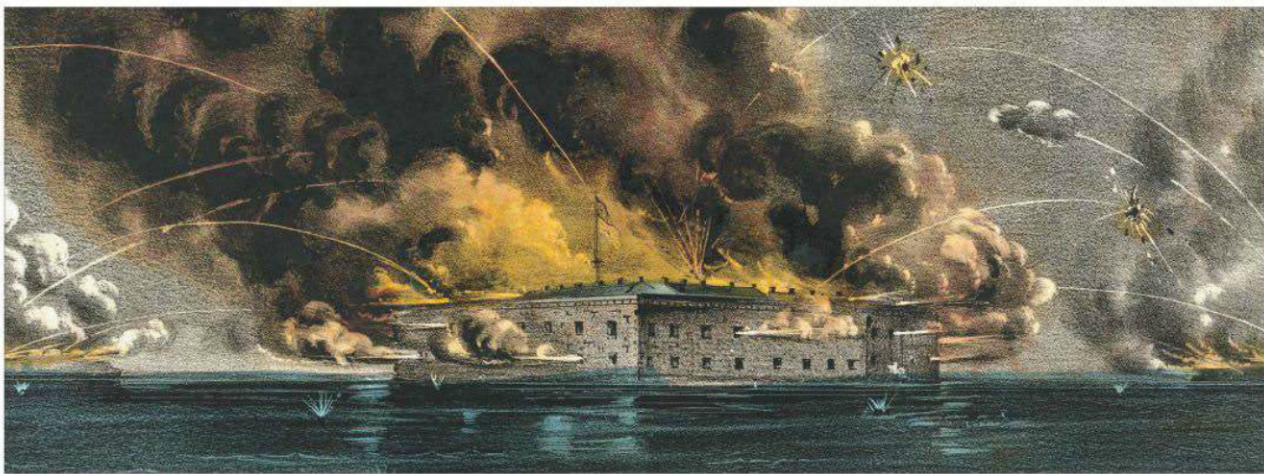
Even after Lincoln's election sent Southern states into secession frenzy, most Americans in



LEFT: Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 presidential election without carrying a single Southern state. When he assumed office in March 1861, seven Southern states had already seceded and he faced the daunting task of trying to hold the Union together as war loomed on the horizon. **RIGHT:** As the Southern secession movement gained momentum, lame-duck president James Buchanan did little to bring a peaceful resolution to the situation.

the North and the South assumed that some compromise acceptable to both sides would be reached and that war would be avoided. In fact, compromises dating back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 had peacefully settled continuing sectional disputes between the North and the South, including the 1820 Missouri Compromise, the Compromise of 1850 and the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act. Some of these disputes involved economic issues such as tariffs, but overwhelmingly the subject of continuing sectional contention was slavery – its future in the states where it existed and, most troublesome, its possible extension into America's Western territories.

Although after Lincoln's election several factions, notably those in the Border States (slave states but staunchly pro-Union in sentiment), pursued efforts to reach a peaceful compromise and avert war, two other factions opposed any compromise at all. The abolitionist radical element of Northern Republicans adamantly refused any war-averting agreement that would allow slavery in the territories, while the Southerners known as "Fire-eaters" single-mindedly demanded their states' independence from the United States. The ineffective lame-duck president James Buchanan blamed the secession crisis entirely on "aboli-



April 12, 1861. Confederate artillery guns fire the first shots of the Civil War when they bombard Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. (Illustration by Currier & Ives.)

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Lincoln's active involvement in forging a compromise seemed America's only hope for avoiding war.

tionist Republicans" and provided no leadership to solve the issue peacefully. Thus Lincoln's active involvement in forging a compromise seemed America's only hope for avoiding war.

LINCOLN'S DECISION: Despite desperate pleas by moderate Republicans (then clearly representing the party's majority), president-elect Lincoln chose not to make any attempts at striking a deal that would avoid war. Publicly, he frustrated the efforts of those who were desperately trying to reach a peaceful compromise by refusing to speak out – maintaining a “paralyzed silence,” as the *New York Herald* complained. Privately, Lincoln sided solidly with those in the Radical Republican minority faction, telling them he would “hold firm” and refuse any agreement that included permitting slavery in any form in the territories. “Thus,” as Lincoln biographer Harold Holzer concluded, “compromise was doomed.”

FORT SUMTER

As the newly formed Confederate government moved to confiscate federal property within the seceded states, the major focal point of both sides by early April 1861 became Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Major Robert Anderson commanded the fort's garrison, and although he steadfastly refused Confederate demands to evacuate the fort, no military hostilities had yet commenced. Anderson's supplies, however, were critically low. If the garrison was not resupplied soon (by sea, the only possible means), the fort would have to be evacuated.

No one in the North or the South doubted that any Union attempt to resupply Fort Sumter would provoke Confederate military action. Yet even if resupplied, the garrison could not hold out indefinitely against the numerous Confederate artillery batteries ringing the coastline surrounding the island fort. Whether Fort Sumter received supplies or not, its evacuation at some point was inevitable. The choice Lincoln faced was whether the evacuation would be conducted in a manner that would maintain an uneasy peace, or done in a way that would provoke a Confederate military response.

LINCOLN'S DECISION: Lincoln, knowing full well his decision would cause the Confederates to respond militarily, chose to send naval vessels under Captain Gustavus Fox to



March 4, 1861. Abraham Lincoln is sworn in as the 16th president of the United States in front of a large crowd at the U.S. Capitol. Even at this late date, Lincoln still might have made choices to avert a bloody civil war.

resupply Fort Sumter. On April 6, 1861, the president notified South Carolina governor Francis Pickens of his intent to resupply the garrison. This notification prompted the Confederate government to order General P.G.T. Beauregard in Charleston to issue Anderson a surrender ultimatum. When Anderson refused to surrender, Confederate artillery began bombarding Fort Sumter at 4 a.m. on

April 12. Anderson surrendered April 14.

By choosing to resupply the fort, Lincoln had maneuvered the Confederacy into firing the first shot. Confederate Secretary of State Robert Toombs clearly understood the dire implications of the Fort Sumter action: “It puts us in the wrong. It is fatal.”

CALL TO ARMS: REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

Although the first shots had been fired at Fort Sumter, the scope of the worsening conflict briefly remained limited. Indeed, during the “Secession Winter” of 1860–61, four Southern states (Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina) and the Border States (Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland) had rejected the idea of leaving the Union. However, when on April 15, 1861, Lincoln chose to issue a “call to arms” to raise 75,000 troops to “put down the rebellion” and then on April 20 ordered a naval blockade of Southern ports, he effectively undermined any further efforts by Southern pro-Unionists to keep their states from seceding. Over the next two months, the Fire-eater faction gained ascendancy in the remaining four Southern states – Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina – and led them out of the Union.

Moreover, Lincoln's actions evoked rising pro-Confederate sentiment in the vital Border States, forcing the president to hold them in the Union through military force and extralegal means (such as imposing martial law, suspending habeas corpus and imprisoning legislators). Nevertheless, a substantial number of the Border States' citizens joined the ranks of the Confederate Army during the war, while a brutal no-quarter guerrilla war broke out in Missouri and many of the border regions.

The biblical passage “they that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind” seems an apt description of the tragic events in America during the five crucial months of November 1860 to April 1861. Many leaders in the North and the South bore responsibility for “sowing the wind” during this troubled time. Yet Abraham Lincoln was perhaps the only one whose choices might have allowed the country to avoid “reaping the whirlwind” of bloody civil war. ★

Jerry D. Morelock, PhD, “Armchair General”
Editor in Chief.

GOOD READS:

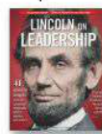
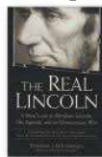
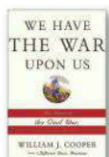
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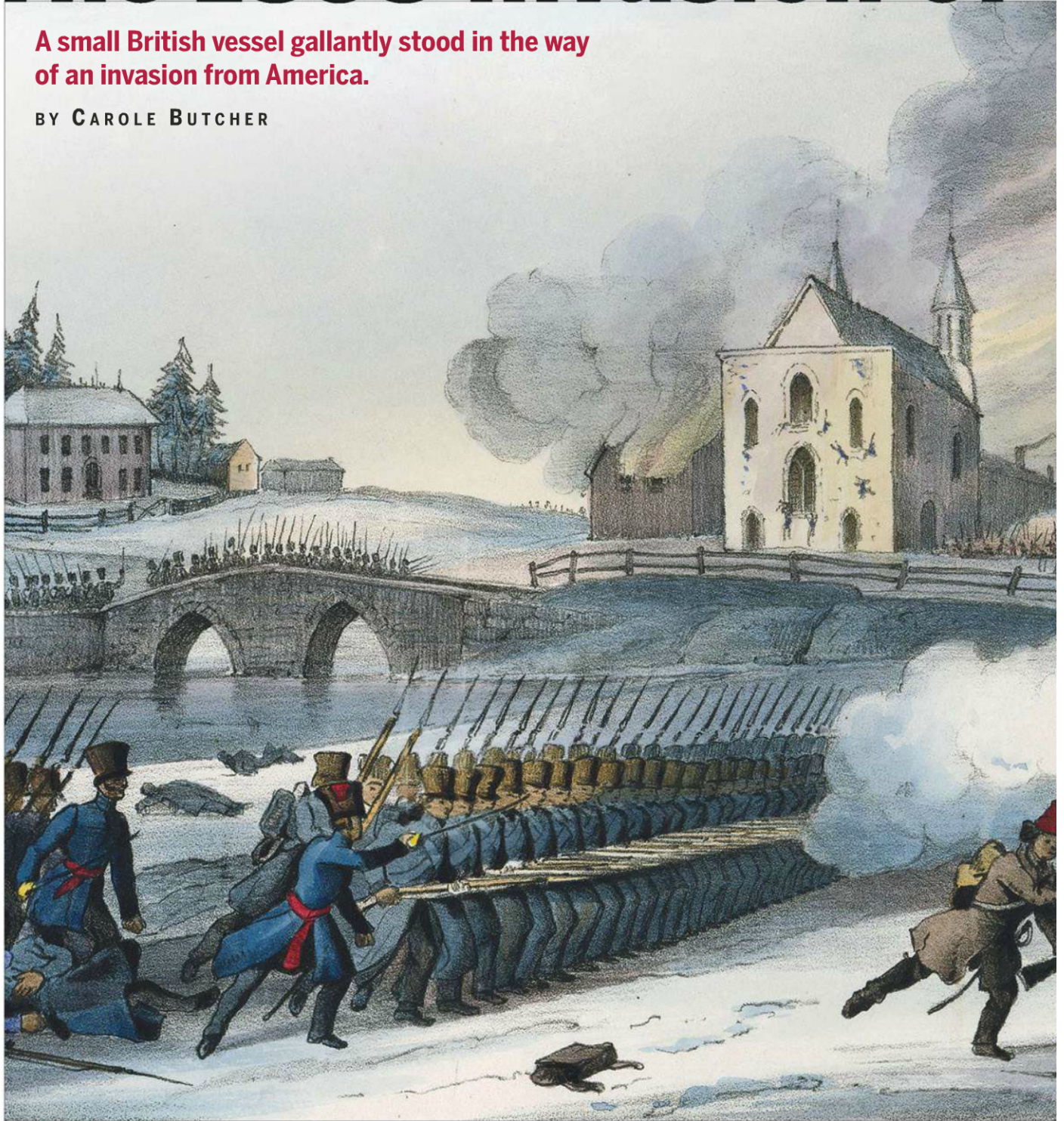
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The 1838 Invasion of

A small British vessel gallantly stood in the way of an invasion from America.

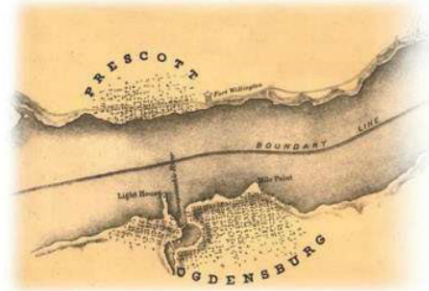
BY CAROLE BUTCHER



Canada



LEFT: LORD CHARLES BEAUCLERK, RIGHT: PLAN OF RIVER ST. LAWRENCE/OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS TORONTO, 1856



It was a cold November morning on the Saint Lawrence River in 1838. British Royal Navy Lieutenant William Fowell stood on the deck of Her Majesty's Steam Vessel *Experiment*, keeping a watchful eye on the American shore. In the earliest hours of the morning, invaders had failed in an attempt to land at Prescott, Ontario. But Fowell knew that the invasion had only been delayed, not deterred.

The War of 1812 was decades past, but all was not quiet along the American-Canadian border. The threat to Canada came not from the United States government, but from a clandestine organization called the Patriot Hunters. The situation along the Saint Lawrence was an uneasy one. Nathaniel S. Benton, district attorney for northern New York, informed U.S. President Martin Van Buren that the situation was becoming explosive: "The whole frontier is filled with people ... who appear to be ready at a moment's warning for any movement upon or acts of violence" directed against Canada. President Van Buren agreed that the growing tensions were cause for concern, referring to "the mutually disturbing and irritating occurrences growing out of the Canadian Rebellion and the unauthorized participation of [American] citizens in its prosecution."

Britain had no desire for another conflict with the United States, but there appeared to be no way to protect Canada short of war. British officials informed U.S. leaders that they would regret having to

1837. Canadian government troops scatter Patriot rebels at the Battle of Saint-Eustache during the rebellions of 1837. Some of these defeated Patriots and others from the Upper Canadian Rebellion fled to the United States and helped organize the "Hunters' Lodge." (Painting by Lord Charles Beauclerk.)



June 1838. A company of British Royal Marines passes through Jones Falls on the way to Kingston. A few months later these men took part in the Battle of the Windmill near Prescott, Ontario, against invasion forces launched from the United States. (Painting by Philip John Bainbridge.)

pursue the “Rebels or Pirates” into American territory, but that “some little overstepping of the boundary” might be required. The risk was that any “overstepping of the boundary” would lead to the very war that both countries fervently hoped to avoid. But alternatives seemed limited.

The Hunters were convinced that Canadians longed to throw off the yoke of British tyranny. They believed the presence of a well-organized, well-armed force would provide the spark to foment a full-scale uprising. The moment the Hunters’ banner was planted on Canadian soil, the downtrodden masses would flock to the cause and rally to overthrow their oppressors. The Hunters would soon learn just how badly they had miscalculated.

The invasion did not start auspiciously. The insurgents planned to use two schooners, *Charlotte of Oswego* and *Charlotte of Toronto*, to land a force at Prescott early morning on

November 12. The pilots quickly realized they couldn’t land at their primary destination – the wharf was torn up for repairs – so they moved their boats to the next landing. But an attempt to tie up there failed when the rope broke. By the time a third landing was attempted, Lieutenant Colonel Plomer Young had arrived at the waterfront with troops, threatening to open fire unless the boats identified themselves. Realizing a landing was now impossible, the two vessels turned, disappeared into the mist, and sailed back for the American side.

Daybreak revealed no improvement in the Hunters’ luck after the aborted landing. In the mist and darkness, *Charlotte of Oswego* and *Charlotte of Toronto* had run aground on a mudbank off Ogdensburg, N.Y., and were tangled in each other’s lines. The Hunters’ only consolation: The schooners were in American waters.

William “Bill the Pirate” Johnston procured a scow in Ogdensburg and directed artillery and arms from *Charlotte of Toronto* unloaded onto the smaller boat. That lightened the schooner enough to free it from the mudbank and it soon moved downriver, careful to remain in American waters. Its sister ship, however, was not as lucky. No amount of effort could free *Charlotte of Oswego*. It needed a tow. John Ward Birge led a force to Ogdensburg and commandeered the passenger steamer *United States*, whose new captain, Oliver B. Pierce, was described as a “drunken phrenologist.”

While *Charlotte of Toronto* and the scow carrying the munitions moved downriver to the agreed landing site, *United States* went to rescue *Charlotte of Oswego*. Because of the mudbank, however, the steamer could not get close enough to the stranded schooner and thus returned to Ogdensburg for a longer

Experiment was then all that stood between Canada and an invasion.

towrope. When *United States* arrived for a second rescue attempt, it gave the mudbank a wide berth lest it also become grounded. In the process, the steamer came up on *Charlotte's* northern side. This was a mistake – *United States* was now in Canadian waters.

Aboard *Experiment*, Fowell was well aware that venturing into American waters was forbidden. While the U.S. government did not support the Hunters, American General Winfield Scott made it clear he would not tolerate any British vessels entering his country's waters. With War of 1812 memories still fresh, anything resembling a British invasion would not be allowed. General Scott advised the British that he intended to "protect our own soil or waters from violation" and would be "obliged to consider a discharge of shot or shell from or into our waters, from the armed schooners of her Majesty, an act seriously compromising the neutrality of our two nations."

With the error made by *United States'* captain, however, Fowell was free to attack. His vessel was an unlikely British warship. A former civilian vessel powered by a 30-horsepower engine, it mounted two 3-pounder guns and an 18-pounder carronade. Unlikely though it might be, *Experiment* was then all that stood between Canada and an invasion. Fowell was determined to stand his ground. He had been lying in wait on the chance that one of the Hunters' vessels would make an error, and his gun crews were prepared for action against any that ended up in Canadian waters.

As *United States* approached *Experiment*, Hunters on deck opened rifle fire. Fowell returned fire with the carronade and 3-pounders. Shots hit the hull of *United States* but did no damage. *Charlotte of Toronto* had already reached its landing point with the scow. Men and munitions were being unloaded and the invasion was under way. After the brief scuffle with *Experiment*, *United States* moved downriver to support the assault.

Fowell, afraid that Prescott was still the real target and that the Hunters intended to lure him away,

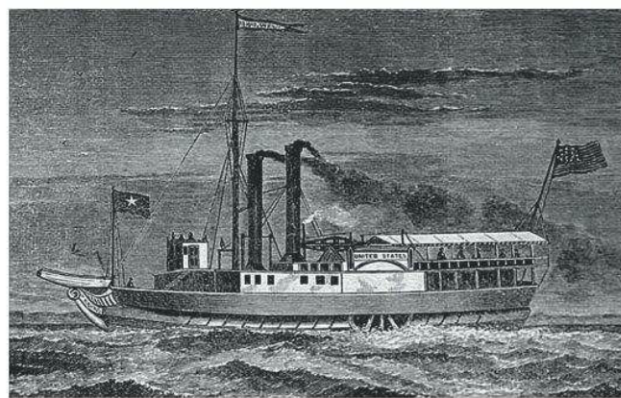


1838. Canadian Patriots on the march. In the months leading up to the invasion of Prescott, Ontario, hundreds of Patriot Hunters on the U.S. side of the border prepared for battle and stood ready to act should the need arise. (Painting by Charles William Jefferys.)

turned back *Experiment*. As he did, he saw that the steamer *Paul Pry* had come to rescue *Charlotte of Oswego*, freeing it from the mudbank. In doing so, both vessels ventured into Canadian waters. Fowell now had a new target.

Experiment opened fire at close range. *Paul Pry* cut loose the towrope and headed fast for Ogdensburg. At that time, the men aboard *Charlotte* called that they wanted to surrender. But by the time *Experiment* came about, *Charlotte* had reached the safety of American waters. Those on board quickly recanted their surrender plea. Fowell had to let the schooner go. For *Experiment*, how-

A view of the passenger steamer *United States*, the vessel John Ward Birge commandeered to rescue *Charlotte of Oswego*.



ever, the battle was not over. *United States* was bearing down on it at top speed.

Experiment displaced 100 tons, while *United States* displaced 450 tons. Thus from the Americans' point of view, the aggressive move must have seemed like a good idea at the time. If *United States* could not sink the smaller vessel by ramming, it appeared likely it could inflict enough damage to keep *Experiment* out of any further action.

Hunters on board *United States* jeered at the little British ship that seemed so vulnerable. Fowell opened fire, but once again the shots had no effect. The smaller craft had no difficulty avoiding an attempted ramming, and it fired again as *United States* passed. This time, one shot took out the starboard engine and another splintered the wheelhouse, decapitating the pilot. The Hunters' jeers quickly died away while one of the crewmen managed to guide the damaged vessel back to Ogdensburg.

Charlotte of Toronto, which had been following *United States* upriver, saw what happened and veered into American waters. With all U.S. ships safely on the American side, Fowell returned to Prescott and reported the action.

The Hunters' incursion, however, was not yet ended. The Battle of the Windmill the following day east of Prescott was the last gasp. British regulars and local Canadian militia won decisively. Far from flocking to the Hunters' banner, Canadians took up arms to resist the invasion.

The Patriot Hunters' invasion of Canada was a dismal failure. Those insurgents not killed were captured. Some were pardoned or shipped off to exile in Tasmania. Eleven were executed.

After fighting one of the British Royal Navy's oddest engagements, gallant little *Experiment* could retire with dignity, having upheld the pride of that illustrious service. ★

Carole Butcher, who has published articles in numerous magazines, received a Master's Degree in Military History from Norwich University (norwich.edu).

ADOLF GALLAND

This World War II German ace led the Luftwaffe Fighter Force against the massive Allied air armadas.

BY RICHARD N. ARMSTRONG

**JUNE 21, 1941
OVER THE ENGLISH CHANNEL**

German Luftwaffe 26th Fighter Wing commander Adolf Galland, in aerial combat with a large British fighter formation over the English Channel, watched as his 70th “kill” of World War II spiraled to a flaming crash. Suddenly, Royal Air Force (RAF) Spitfires rolled in on the tail of Galland’s Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter and began blazing away. Within moments, the right side of the Messerschmitt’s fuselage was ripped open, the plane’s fuel tank and radiator were leaking heavily, and Galland’s arm and head were bleeding. The gas tank then exploded, engulfing the fuselage in flames and flooding the cockpit with burning petrol.

Attempting to escape the doomed aircraft, Galland tried to activate the canopy release but found it jammed. He then shoved against the roof of the plane with his whole body, but air pressure held it down. With flames licking all around him, he desperately made a last effort, finally pushing up the canopy until it was torn away by the airstream. But Galland was not yet out of danger. As he exited the burning deathtrap, his parachute pack snagged on a fixed component of the cockpit. He struggled until he broke loose, and soon he was freefalling.

Amid the excitement and relief at being freed, Galland nearly made a fatal mistake – he tried to pull his parachute harness quick release instead of the ripcord. Finally, he jerked the ripcord and was soon swinging beneath an open parachute floating to earth. After landing on solid ground, battered but safe on the German-occupied side of the Channel in France, Galland was able to hitch a ride back to his airfield. In the wake of his near-death ordeal, he recalled: “After I had drunk an extra large cognac and smoked a cigarette I felt much better.”

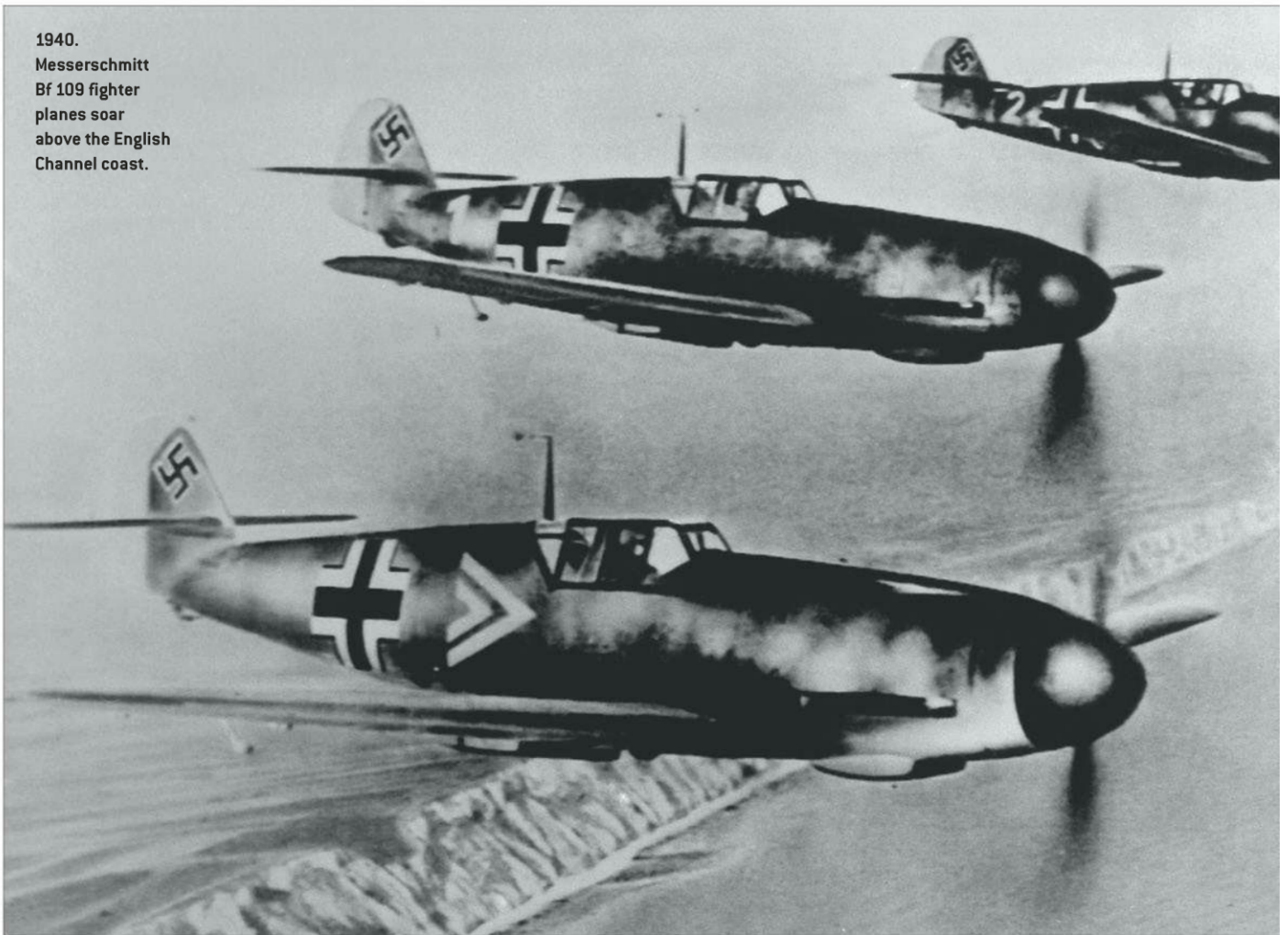
OPPOSITE: German fighter ace Adolf Galland flew 705 missions during World War II and claimed 104 victories in aerial combat against Western Allied aircraft. In 1941, Galland became commander of the Luftwaffe Fighter Force.

ULLSTEIN BILD/WALTER FRENTZ



Assigned to the Luftwaffe's first fighter unit, Galland thrived

1940.
Messerschmitt
Bf 109 fighter
planes soar
above the English
Channel coast.



From September 1939 through April 1945, Adolf Galland flew 705 missions and claimed 104 victories in aerial combat against Western Allied aircraft. His June 21, 1941, brush with death was likely the closest he came to being killed in the *four* times he was shot down during World War II. Yet Galland did not die in the flaming wreckage of his shattered aircraft that day. Five months later, Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring appointed him “general der Jagdflieger,” commander of the Luftwaffe Fighter Force. But even Galland’s exceptional leadership abilities proved insufficient to defeat the massive Allied air armadas that were pummeling Germany’s cities and war industries.

EYES ON THE SKY

Adolf Joseph Ferdinand Galland was born March 19, 1912, to Adolf and Anna Galland near Essen, Germany. From an early age, Adolf showed an interest in mechanical sets and wooden airplane models. He later recalled that he experienced his first desire to fly when he was a teenager in the spring of 1927 and saw glider enthu-

siasts in a nearby town. He read about aerodynamics and meteorology and then obtained his glider pilot certification after graduating from high school.

Galland informed his father that he wanted to become a professional pilot. In 1932, he qualified for a competitive student position in the German Commercial Flying School. The following summer, Galland became certified to fly a single-engine aircraft with three passengers. Sent to aerobatic school, he learned the techniques of inverted flight, rolls, loops, steep dives and complex maneuvers for which his glider background proved invaluable.

While visiting the Central Airline Pilot School in Berlin, Galland was told by officials dressed in civilian clothes about Germany’s secret training program for military pilots – in contravention of the Versailles Treaty. The treaty, which ended World War I, had forbidden Germany to build, own or operate military aircraft, but its protocols allowed the country to develop civil aviation. Invited to volunteer, Galland joined the clandestine military training effort.

ILLUSTRATION BY THE GRANGER COLLECTION, N.Y.

on high-speed maneuvers and low-altitude aerobatics.



MILITARY PILOT

After the Nazi Party gained increasing strength in Germany's government, Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor in January 1933. Although Galland was little interested in politics, he supported Hitler's plans to create a strong military air force. In April, Hermann Göring became Reich commissioner for aviation. Galland traveled to Italy for training with the Italian Air force to practice inverted flight, air-to-ground strafing and military drills. After the two-month course, he returned to Germany as a Lufthansa airline pilot. But in December 1933, he joined the emerging German air force as a commissioned officer. His military training began at an infantry basic training course, followed by Infantry School for officers and study of air combat theory at the War Academy. In 1934, Galland, along with all members of the German military, swore an oath of unconditional obedience to the führer, Adolf Hitler.

In February 1935, Hitler established the Reichsluftwaffe, the German military air arm separate from the army and navy. The fledgling Luftwaffe began equipping itself with modern combat aircraft and cultivating new aircrews, but there was little time to grow experienced aviators for middle and senior leadership positions. The Luftwaffe's senior commanders trained for "the last war" (World War I), promoted officers based on their army experience, and shaped the Luftwaffe to support army tactical operations rather than developing concepts for strategic bombers and independent fighter operations.

Assigned to the Luftwaffe's first fighter unit, Galland thrived on high-speed maneuvers and low-altitude aerobatics. In October 1935, he crashed a biplane, resulting in a three-day coma and a damaged eye and fractured skull. A year later, a second training crash aggravated his injured eye. But despite having glass fragments in his eye, Galland convinced the doctors who wanted to ground him that he was fit to fly.

In July 1936, as civil war broke out between Spain's Republican loyalist government and General Francisco Franco's Nationalist rebels, the Nationalists appealed to Germany for military support. Luftwaffe "volunteers" were sent to Spain to fight on Franco's side. In April 1937, Galland joined Fighter Group 88 in the Luftwaffe Condor Legion. Arriving after the Condor Legion's shocking bombing of Guernica, he became part of a fighter unit escorting bombers and conducting ground-strafting missions against Republican heavy anti-aircraft guns. The new air warfare brought evolving tactics, providing Galland valuable experience to observe and evaluate new methods. He learned to improvise during combat: Encountering difficulty when attacking tenacious defenders in trenches, he substituted his bombs with a tankful of petrol fitted with a detonator.

Early on, Galland proved an extremely competent and courageous pilot. He emphasized detail and routinely checked the condition of his aircraft and its armament, heeding the warning of legendary German World War I ace Manfred von Richthofen, who said that "no gun

jams itself." Galland remained in Spain for a year, flying 280 sorties over enemy territory and receiving the Spanish Gold Cross with Swords and Diamonds.

In the summer of 1938, Galland was a staff officer in the Ministry of Aviation working contingency plans for war against Czechoslovakia. Relying on his Spanish experience, he prepared recommendations for close air support of ground troops that left the enemy no respite for recovery. In late 1938, he escaped staff duty with reassignment to a fighter unit before Germany's occupation of Czechoslovakia became a peaceful exercise of the invasion plan.

WORLD WAR II

Despite British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's public announcement of Britain's military support for Poland's independence, Hitler launched the invasion of Poland, precipitating the outbreak of World War II in Europe. On September 1, 1939, Galland flew in support of 10th Army with the mission to cut off Polish armies in the north. His echelon of Henschels bombed troop concentrations and supply dumps and strafed traffic on roads, supporting General Heinz Guderian's XVI Panzer Corps race for the Vistula River.

Galland flew 87 combat missions, leading close support for fast-moving armored battles. He was a demanding commander who led from the front, and his reputation for maneuvering an airplane beyond its performance standard grew. In recognition of his bravery and outstanding leadership, he was awarded the Iron Cross 2d Class. After the Polish campaign, Galland requested transfer from ground support – which he disliked – to a fighter pilot role. On February 10, 1940, he was assigned to 27th Fighter Wing (JG-27).

While Hitler schemed to close British access to the Baltic Sea and secure Scandinavia, Galland assumed position as the fighter wing's operations officer, working pilot and ground crew rosters, logistical support, intelligence reports, communications and operational briefings. On April 9, 1940, German airborne troops flew into airfields in Denmark and Norway, securing them for Luftwaffe use. JG-27 actions became hectic as operational aircraft took off, landed, turned around and launched again. Since Galland had not yet shot down an aircraft, he found a way to join a fighter patrol. Engaging eight British Hurricane fighters with the patrol, he personally shot down two of the enemy planes. In a second patrol, he scored his third victory. With the sector cleared of enemy fighters, the unit switched back to escorting Stuka dive-bombers.

Germany next invaded France through the Ardennes in May 1940. The operational demands to move men, materiel and aircraft behind advancing armies while keeping fueled and armed planes in the air prevented Galland from routinely patrolling. Nevertheless, he soon scored his eighth kill and was awarded the Iron Cross 1st Class.

The most formidable foes encountered by German fighter pilots were the RAF Spitfires covering the British evacuation of Dunkirk in late May and early June 1940. Galland joined the sorties flying over Dunkirk, where he fought Spitfires for the first time. He was impressed with the planes and greatly respected the skill and bravery of their British pilots. Yet as his number of personal victories rose, he came to believe that Bf 109 fighters had an edge over Spitfires. His hallmark in a Bf 109 was a high-speed dive to escape a dangerous situation or to gain a close combat advantage. Few pilots could stay with him in a

By December 1940, the Battle of Britain had ended

dive since the Bf 109 was notorious for stripping off its wings in high-speed dives and maneuvers. Other pilots recalled Galland's unique sequence of several separate maneuvers (based on his glider and aerobatic experience) that gave him the advantage over opponents.

After Dunkirk, on June 6, 1940, Galland became commander of III Group, JG-26. He quickly raised the standard of his new command, which had a poor reputation. He led by example, demanding bold, aggressive flying, and his pilots had to be good enough to follow him. They learned to trust him to enter battle at the right time and the right place.

Galland's fighters escorted bombers and dive-bombers in the offensive to conquer the remainder of France. Yet Galland was frustrated when the bombers' late arrival for rendezvous forced his Bf 109s to burn too much fuel and leave before the end of the missions. His main

in southeastern England. The first bomber wave successfully struck its target but also alerted RAF fighter defenses. As the second wave headed for its assigned target, British fighters pounced. Galland had taught his pilots to attack fast and act decisively – and they did. His group tore into the enemy fighters, and in the swirling aerial combat that followed he saw a marked improvement in his men's performance.

Galland believed that to be most effective in an escort mission, fighters should fly "detached escort" – ahead of bombers and slightly higher than enemy fighters – and his tactics worked well. However, heavy Luftwaffe losses in the first phase of the Battle of Britain (350 German aircraft lost in six days compared to the RAF's 250 planes) led Göring to dictate tactics in which he fettered fighters closely to bomber formations. While fighters were now directly allocated to bombers, Galland launched additional escorts to cover returning bombers so that fighters gained more combat freedom.

Although the Bf 109 flew faster and higher than the British Spitfire and could dive and fly inverted without its engine cutting out, the Spitfire had a better turning radius at the lower speeds and altitudes flown by bombers. During a front-line briefing on Luftwaffe tactics, Göring asked what his pilots needed to win the Battle of Britain. Galland's sharp-tongued reply: "I should like an outfit of Spitfires for my squadron."

Despite the two men's tactical differences, Göring awarded Galland the prestigious Pilot's Badge in Gold with Diamonds in recognition of his distinguished service. In a private meeting, however, Göring insisted that a lack of fighter aggression accounted for the high number of lost bombers. Nevertheless, he promoted the 28-year-old Galland to command 26th Fighter Wing (JG-26), consisting of nine squadrons and 100 pilots. Galland protested that he would be more useful in his current position, in which he had direct control and led his pilots, but Göring dismissed his objections.

Galland rose to the challenge of his new position, reorganizing JG-26 and promoting talented pilots to command positions. He also visited every airfield and met not only pilots and operations staff but also mechanics, cooks, clerks and truck drivers.

An RAF bomber raid on Berlin on the night of August 28-29, 1940, infuriated Hitler and Göring (who had proclaimed German air space secure). Hitler ordered German attacks extended to British cities and increased the production of 2,220-pound high-explosive bombs specifically designed to destroy buildings. On September 7, the Luftwaffe launched its biggest raid, almost 1,000 aircraft, targeting London. Galland never forgot the sight of the sprawling capital burning beneath the evening sky, and he thought of the consequences for German cities.

Galland continued to challenge the "close escort" missions that sapped the capability of his Bf 109s. Göring, however, insisted the duty of fighters was to support bombers closely. He considered the young wing commander impertinent and told Galland that while he admired his flair for combat, his personal victory log was of secondary importance to the overall offensive against Britain.



1940. Hermann Göring (center) meets with Werner Moelders (left) and Adolf Galland. Although the two men didn't always see eye to eye, Göring thought enough of Galland to give him command of 26th Fighter Wing (JG-26) and later command of the Luftwaffe Fighter Force.

concern was keeping a high percentage of his group in the air. Pilot losses kept his unit understrength, and the combat tempo drained supplies and spare aircraft, playing havoc with routine servicing, which quickly grounded aircraft. Galland always sought ways to improve operational efficiency, and he proved adept at the task: After the campaign, he brought his group to full strength of 39 aircraft and 39 pilots in two weeks.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

During July 1940, the Luftwaffe escalated cross-Channel bomber attacks on shipping, ports and ground installations in preparation for a projected invasion of Britain. The effort sparked the July-December 1940 Battle of Britain – the first campaign fought entirely by opposing air forces. Galland, newly promoted to major, moved his units to the Pas de Calais area. On August 1, he received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross for his 17th confirmed victory.

On August 12, Galland was ordered to escort the second of two waves of fighter-bombers sent to hit separate convoys off the Kent coast

and the RAF had defeated the Luftwaffe decisively.



October 1940. Galland exits his Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter plane after returning from a mission during the Battle of Britain.

By December 1940, the Battle of Britain had ended and the RAF had defeated the Luftwaffe decisively. Germany's air effort settled into night raids and attacks against shipping. Galland nevertheless sought tactical air combat lessons from the experience, particularly those he would apply to his greatest challenge of the war – opposing the Allied strategic bombing of Germany.

For bravery during the Battle of Britain and for a 70th victory, Galland received the swords to his oak leaves of the Knight's Cross. He was the first of only 159 individuals to receive the honor.

FIGHTER FORCE COMMANDER

In November 1941, Göring appointed Galland “general der Jagdflieger,” overall commander of the Luftwaffe Fighter Force. Although Galland was now forbidden to fly combat missions, he violated this restriction in order to familiarize himself with all German fighters and to engage U.S. bombers. He also fought “battles” with Luftwaffe leadership, struggling against counterproductive “group think” among the general staff and sparring with arrogant staff officers who stayed

out of touch with reality in the safety of rear-area headquarters.

Galland quickly realized that aircraft availability was the key issue impacting the Luftwaffe's effectiveness. He closely studied reports and data on loss levels and found them appalling: In 1941, the number of aircraft written off by the Luftwaffe was equal to its entire authorized strength for that period. Worse, Galland discovered that 53 percent of the written-off fighters were *not* lost to enemy action.

Supplying the front lines became a logistical nightmare as the Luftwaffe endeavored to provide air support to German forces fighting on multiple fronts. On the Eastern Front, for example, Galland discovered several hundred aircraft in Russia sitting idle while awaiting spare and replacement parts. With a shortfall in fighter production and an ineffective supply chain to maintain existing aircraft, Galland constantly grappled with the Nazi war machine's fantasies that were portrayed as reality by out-of-touch higher staffs.

Galland grasped that shortages in resources and forces undermined front-line troops and crippled operations. After a trip to North Africa, he wrote a candid assessment of the situation, concluding that without

Galland resolved to fight to the end and told his pilots

the necessary resources the North African campaign was already lost. Galland's report gained him no friends in the higher command; in fact, Göring ordered him to sanitize the report and rewrite it. In May 1943, the Germans lost North Africa, as Galland had predicted.

In 1943, Allied air forces greatly increased their full-scale strategic bombardment of Germany in an offensive that melded RAF night bombing with U.S. Army Air Forces daylight raids. Galland sought to increase the production of German fighter planes and to ensure that the types of aircraft produced matched the threat. He worked out a production pattern with Field Marshal Erhard Milch, Luftwaffe inspector general, for raising fighter production to 1,000 a month by mid-1943. To justify this requirement, Galland cited the growing Allied strategic bombing threat. Milch used the more politically acceptable

forces. Galland believed if Fighter Force could inflict shocking casualties on Allied bombers, Germany's chance for a separate peace with the Western Allies would be enhanced. He therefore argued for a "big punch" to temporarily halt enemy bomber raids on Germany's oil and steel works. To gather such a force, he reorganized Fighter Force, withdrawing units from the southern front and Austria, and recruited volunteer pilots.

On November 12, Galland reported to the Luftwaffe staff that Fighter Force was ready for the "big punch." But the following week, he was summoned to a meeting where it was explained to him that his fighters were needed elsewhere. Unknown to Galland, Hitler planned a counterstroke in the Ardennes (the Battle of the Bulge) and dismissed the idea of sending fighters against Allied bomber formations as useless.

Galland sensed an increasing loss of influence.

Three weeks later, Galland met with the chief of the Luftwaffe general staff, General Karl Koller, who bluntly told him that Göring and Hitler wanted Galland removed. SS head Heinrich Himmler, who also wanted to get rid of the popular fighter general, created trumped-up accusations (including misuse of funds, excessive gambling, disloyalty, defeatism and incompetence) to support formal charges of treason. Galland's phones were tapped and transcripts of his conversations were collected to look for incriminating evidence.

Galland, unaware of the full extent of his dangerous position, continued to prepare Fighter Force until he was finally told that there would be no "big punch." In January 1945, Göring summoned Galland, lectured him on his failures and insisted that he take leave. Galland was then relieved from his post.

News of Galland's dismissal spread among Fighter Force unit leaders, who refused to accept the situation. They made mutinous demands for improvements, which sent Göring into a violent rage. Through February 1945, Galland remained under house arrest in Berlin. However, when Hitler heard

of the actions against Galland, he called the SS and Gestapo and ordered them to "stop this nonsense at once." Galland's ordeal had all been a power play by Göring.



1941. Galland (second from left) demonstrates flight maneuvers during a meeting with fellow German officers in France. Galland frequently sparred with members of the Luftwaffe leadership, whom he saw as out of touch with the reality on the battlefield.

(but hardly forthright) justification of building more planes to support German "offensive" operations. In the mean time, Galland continued to improve the organization, logistics and control of the Luftwaffe Fighter Force, which put more aircraft into battle.

During August 1944, the Luftwaffe on the Western Front reached its lowest level of operational effectiveness. Finally convinced that only fighters could save the situation, Göring curtailed the production of bombers in favor of fighters. Galland closely watched the Me 262 program for Germany's jet aircraft. He wanted the Me 262 exclusively as a fighter aircraft, but Hitler demanded it become a fighter-bomber. The Me 262 had become operational in June 1944, and over the next 10 months German jet pilots shot down 357 aircraft. Galland, however, recognized that the jets were extremely vulnerable during take-offs and landings – and once the Allies inevitably discovered the jet units' locations by observing the scorch marks on the concrete runways, they certainly would exploit this vulnerability.

On November 1, Galland was promoted to lieutenant general; at the age of 32, he was the youngest general in the German armed

JET PILOT

Instead of restoring Galland to Fighter Force command, Göring informed him that Hitler wished for him to organize an elite Me 262 fighter unit composed of expert pilots. "Fighter Band Galland" was formed February 22, 1945, with a strength of 16 Me 262s and 15 pilots. Galland resolved to fight to the end and told his pilots if they were not prepared to do the same they should leave.

On March 18 over Berlin, an American bomber force of 1,200 bombers with an escort of 14 fighter squadrons suffered heavy losses delivered by the Luftwaffe Fighter Force. While German flak guns forced 16 bombers to make emergency landings, the Americans suffered greater losses from Galland's elite jet fighters. The Me 262s repeatedly sped through the American fighter screen, reportedly shooting down 25 bombers and five fighters.

if they were not prepared to do the same they should leave.

A German Messerschmitt Me 262, the world's first jet aircraft, flies a combat sortie during World War II. Galland was very familiar with the Me 262 program and organized an elite Me 262 fighter unit to fight out the last months of the war.



Four weeks before Germany's final defeat, the Luftwaffe Fighter Force was still able to send up small units, but landings and take-offs became increasingly difficult as Allied fighters targeted airfields. On April 25, 1945, American Soldiers and Red Army troops met at the Elbe River. The following day, Galland, while flying his Me 262 in his last mission, gained two more kills, earning his 103d and 104th victories. Attacked by a P-47 during the encounter, Galland suffered a splintered kneecap. With his war now over, Galland offered the Americans the use of his elite jet fighters against the Russians, whom he believed would soon be the enemy of both Germany and America. The American commander replied that he had no authority to do anything but accept total surrender. Galland, with his offer rejected, ordered the complete destruction of over 50 Me 262s at Salzburg and Innsbruck.

The Americans later found Galland May 5, 1945, in the Tegernsee hospital with a plaster cast on his right leg. He went through a series of interrogations in Germany and

Britain for possible indictment at the Nuremberg trials but was not linked to any war crimes. The Allies also held him for technical debriefings, during which he cooperated as a complete professional, impressing his captors.

GOOD READ:

The First and the Last
by Adolf Galland
(lulu.com, 2012).



On April 28, 1947, Galland returned to Germany as a private citizen. Within months, however, he slipped out of the country to become a consultant to the Argentine air force in pilot training and fielding jet fighters. A few years later, he returned to Germany and opened a business. In 1954, Galland published his memoir, *The First and the Last*, which was well received, even by his former enemies (the book was translated into 14 languages and sold millions of copies).

Adolf Galland died February 9, 1996, a little more than a month before his 84th birthday. ★

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THE BIRTH OF



How the 1860s changed the fields of battle forever. **BY RALPH PETERS**

The 10-year span that began with the American Civil War in 1861 and climaxed with a Prussian-led German army besieging Paris in 1870 changed warfare as profoundly as – and certainly more abruptly than – the introduction of steel blades or the development of gunpowder weapons. That decade dramatically altered strategic and operational mobility, military communications, killing power, the relative value of combat arms and the tactics for employing them, the composition of armies, logistics, and medical care for the wounded (while navies moved to steam-driven ironclads mounting long-range guns). A consideration of military leadership across the decade should teach us not to mock the inability of most generals to adjust to a disorienting environment, but to marvel at the few who managed to figure things out – despite the crushing weight of legacy thinking.

The complexity of warfare exploded as the strategic pace accelerated. And one rarely noted determinant of victory may, in fact, have been the decisive factor: literacy. In the end, the armies with the soldiers who could read were the armies that were able to adapt – those of the United States and Prussia. (Indeed, our contemporary experience in attempting to professionalize Afghan troops underscores the degree to which literacy is the fundamental building block of military modernity.)

As this epochal decade approached, Napoleon's shadow clouded the thinking of even the most able generals. Only outliers, such as Ulysses S. Grant and Helmuth von Moltke, escaped his thrall, while Napoleonic maxims, codified by Jomini and others, excused less able leaders from thinking at all. The 1860s came as a series of thunderbolts, following the confused military actions of the previous decade. Even as steam power allowed for more rapid strategic concentration in the 1850s,

MODERN WAR



July 3, 1863. Confederate infantrymen advance against Union positions on Cemetery Ridge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Pickett-Pettigrew Charge highlighted the dangers of launching a mass frontal assault over open terrain against a strongly defended position. (Painting by Edwin Forbes.)

European armies assembling in a theater of war had made no doctrinal advances since Waterloo in 1815. Indeed, the allied armies that landed in the Crimea in 1854 marched more slowly than had the troops of either the Duke of Wellington or Napoleon. English rifles slaughtered Russian infantrymen, but English generals (and cholera) squandered English soldiers. And when the Piedmontese and French fought the Austrians in Italy in 1859, the battles of Magenta and Solferino were clumsy bloodbaths that convinced generals that very little had changed on the tactical battlefield. New rifles in the hands of poorly trained, unmotivated and ineptly led Austrian soldiers proved useless against superior leadership – resulting in a failure to appreciate the killing power of massed rifled weapons.

Soon enough the race would be on to find generals who could think as fast as modern weapons could kill.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, 1861-65

The challenges for the tiny U.S. Army and its new Confederate States of America opponent in 1861 arose, in part, from the European way of war taught by the West Point faculty (a faculty as hide-bound then as it is again today), but also as a result of the heady 1846-48 victory over Mexico that had blooded the young lieutenants and captains who soon would lead armies, corps and divisions in battle. While the U.S. Army's "flying artillery" performed brilliantly against the Mexicans – inaugurating that branch's technical leadership – and General Winfield Scott's daring decision to cut his supply line as he marched on Mexico City would enable Grant to envision the climactic maneuver phase of his 1863 Vicksburg Campaign and William Tecumseh Sherman to march from Atlanta to the sea, other lessons drawn from the Mexican War inhibited both Union and

In Mexico, dashing deeds won through. In our



Union soldiers run telegraph lines during the Battle of Fredericksburg. (Illustration by Alfred R. Waud.)

Confederate adaptation to changes in weaponry – with tragic results.

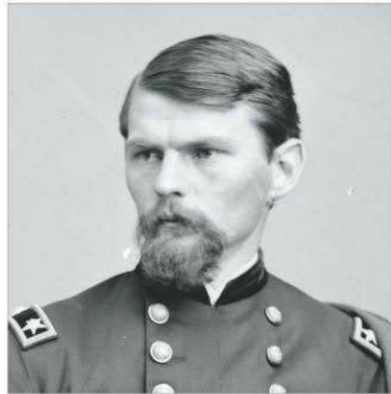
The relatively short ranges of infantry engagements and the limited amount of artillery on the Mexican War's battlefields still permitted successful frontal attacks and linear volley fire. Those would be precisely the wrong tactics for an age of rifled (and, soon, breech-loading, repeating) weapons. Some encounters were bloody enough, such as the gritty fighting at Molino del Rey, but they failed to alarm young officers giddy with victory.

In Mexico, dashing deeds won through. In our Civil War, bravado would lead to butchery. In the decade and a half between Palo Alto and Antietam, the range, accuracy, reliability and sheer number of weapons, both individual arms and artillery, increased to a degree that expanded the deadly space between opposing lines by four or even five times. The problem, which leaders schooled in a tradition of linear battle arrangements dating back to the age of the Duke of Marlborough simply could not grasp, was how to cross that expanded kill zone and retain sufficient strength to defeat the enemy. Two years into a shockingly bloody war, even a brilliant tactical fighter, Robert E. Lee, would launch the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge at Gettysburg in the expectation that a sufficient mass of men with spirit could cross nearly a mile of open space while

exposed to massed rifled weapons. We all know the results.

Gettysburg was also the last Napoleonic battle in which a commander – George Gordon Meade – could stand on a “captain’s hill” and oversee the majority of his battlefield, while receiving reasonably prompt reports from less visible sectors. His lines ran just over three miles. In less than a year, by the late spring of 1864, battlefronts would sprawl to five, seven or 10 miles – not counting flanking cavalry operations – and, by summer’s end, to dozens of miles in the siege of Petersburg and Richmond. That sprawl would raise the second great challenge of the modernizing battlefield: how to maintain tactical control on an ever-widening frontage stretching far beyond visual range and preserve unity of effort in the course of complex attacks.

The initial revolution in military communications, thanks to the telegraph, at first affected only the strategic level, with news of victories and defeats often relayed the same day they occurred (if sometimes inaccurately). By the grim fighting in early June 1864 at Cold Harbor, though, the Army of the Potomac had extended telegraph lines down to its corps headquarters – with a result that has repeated itself uncannily in our recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, when “breakthrough” communications means led generals to believe they could control combat from physically isolated but



Union Col. Emory Upton's use of unconventional tactics during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House highlighted his early tactical brilliance. Upton later became the Army's greatest thinker and theorist of the 19th century.

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Civil War, bravado would lead to butchery.

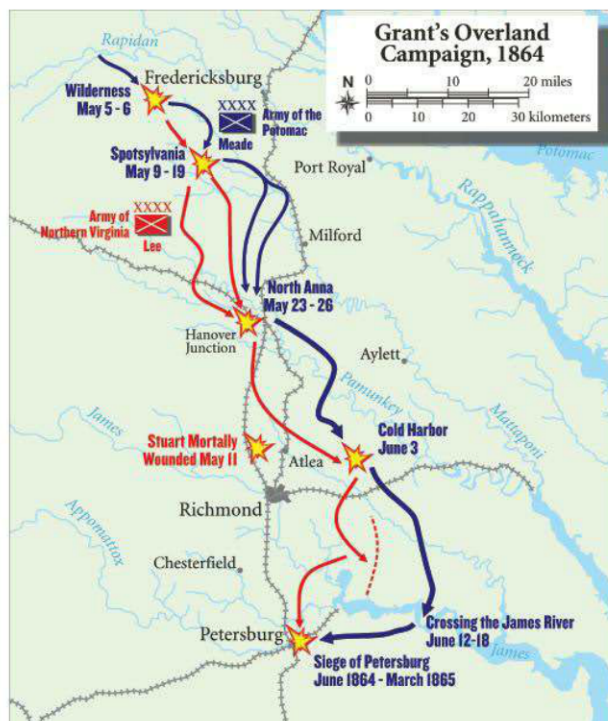
electronically tethered headquarters. In one of his worst performances, the Union's new general in chief, Ulysses S. Grant, did not even see the ground over which he ordered Meade to assault at Cold Harbor until the grand attack had failed disastrously. Even thereafter, Grant often shunned the front lines and relied on telegraphy – like many a general today, he could seem more concerned with communicating up the chain of command to Washington than downward to his troops.

Still, the worst command-and-control problems arose at the tactical level on the fields of battle. As armies expanded wildly in size, flags, drums, bugle calls and shouted orders, if heard or seen at all, as often as not increased the confusion as intermingled units slipped out of control, frustrating plans and spoiling budding successes – with the Spotsylvania Mule Shoe fighting on May 12, 1864, a prime example.

The world's armies would not find a reasonably reliable and practical solution to problems of tactical command and control during combat action for over a half-century, until the advent of tactical radios. That should not, however, obscure the revolutionary effect of the telegraph that allowed Grant, late in the war, to coordinate multi-army operations and administration on multiple fronts deployed over thousands of miles – while President Abraham Lincoln monitored his progress in “near-real time,” as today's Mil-Speak would put it. Less than two decades before, news from the field would have taken weeks to arrive – or months, in the case of colonial powers.

By May 1864, at The Wilderness and Spotsylvania, Lee had finally come to appreciate modern killing power. (See Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign map.) His soldiers entrenched immediately and vigorously (Lee's first great entrenching operation had been at Mine Run, the autumn before, where he fortified a line so well that Meade declined to waste his men's lives by attacking it). This made the challenge to the Union's generals even greater. Some still could not see beyond frontal attacks (Grant, a strategic genius and operational talent, was an unimaginative tactician, to put it gently).

At Spotsylvania, then-Colonel Emory Upton, an intellectual upstart in his mid-20s, got to put his thinking into practice. He had calculated that shock columns – rather than lines – still could penetrate entrenched defenses if they gained tactical surprise and were positioned to jump off where the kill zone was at its narrowest. He further grasped that a fallacy on both sides had been the practice of stopping short of the enemy's lines to exchange volleys, squandering forward impetus. Given a specially organized elite brigade, Upton did several things that were not in common practice: He ordered his men to hold their fire until they were *inside* the Rebel defenses; he led his subordinate commanders forward and briefed them on their individual tasks as they observed the objective of their assault; and he echeloned his shock columns, allotting clear, specific tasks to each. His May 10, 1864, assault on the Confederate “Mule Shoe” line achieved a stunning tactical success, but skeptical superiors had failed to provide for an exploitation force. Upton's remarkable breakthrough came to nothing. It would be repeated at the corps level two days later, though, with Winfield S. Hancock's Union II Corps smashing through Lee's lines – until that attack foundered on command-and-control problems in the face of determined counterattacks. Nonetheless, Upton, who would go on to become the Army's greatest thinker and theorist of the 19th century, had already foreshadowed the



Gen. Ulysses Grant's relentless 1864 Overland Campaign in Virginia against Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia marked the demise of Napoleonic combat and the first maturity of industrial-age warfare. By late 1864, a distinctly American way of modern war had emerged.

storm techniques that the German army, after staggering losses, would develop to break the stalemate of trench warfare a half-century later.

The Confederate infantry, for their part, repeatedly suffered devastating casualties when assaulting dismounted Union cavalry armed with magazine-fed rifles and carbines. In the opening phase of The Wilderness, the 5th New York Cavalry, a superb regiment that, instead of relying on its reputation as a fine saber-fighting outfit, had pioneered dismounted tactics, held off multiple Confederate brigades for up to five hours in a brilliant delaying action that saved a critical intersection for the slow-to-react Union Army.

Indeed, that gruesome month, from May 5 at The Wilderness through June 3 at Cold Harbor, marked the demise of Napoleonic combat and the first maturity of industrial-age war.

Nor was it only Napoleon whose legacy haunted the armies of the age: The influence of Frederick the Great was pernicious, too. In our Civil War, both sides sought to emulate Frederick's famed oblique attacks – with disastrous results. Again, no general in the early years of the war, not even Lee, comprehended that oblique attacks with brigaded infantry had only worked because of the limited ranges of the weaponry of the Frederician period. The genius of the oblique attack was that, in addition to threatening to overlap flanks, it fixed defenders in place while holding a major proportion of the attacking force out of range as long as possible. With rifled weapons, however, all

By the closing year of the war, the Army of the Potomac



May 1864. Union and Confederate troops engage in brutal hand-to-hand fighting at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, the bloodiest clash of Grant's Overland Campaign. (Facsimile print of work by Thure De Thulstrup.)

of the units in an oblique formation ended up in the killing zone simultaneously. The results were horrendous.

While we might wrinkle our noses at such “folly,” it behooves us to recognize that the best generals were struggling to apply the applauded lessons of previous conflicts. That’s *always* the default position of generals confronted by baffling problems. Again, the past is prologue: The U.S. Army in the 21st century fell into the same pattern, binding itself to a counterinsurgency doctrine based on anomalous 20th-century insurgencies that were irrelevant to this century’s religion-fueled fanaticism. Faced with the unknown, we did what we knew. Once again, the “best and brightest,” lacking useful insights and new ideas, turned to the most reassuring lessons from yesteryear’s conflicts. Little changes on the human side: A George McClellan or a

David Petraeus will always find favor with those yearning for a savior, no matter how bogus their promises of redemption.

By the last year of our Civil War, the conflict, while still overwhelmingly conventional, had become asymmetrical in the sense that Lee still led an old-fashioned army that counted on fighting spirit and tactical skill, while Grant oversaw a network of truly modern armies that achieved invincible mass and were backed by a “military machine” that included vast stores of materiel, railroads that ran right to corps rear areas, the latest communications, and even a system of medical evacuation and echeloned hospitals that constituted one of the greatest breakthroughs in military management (the European powers would not field comparable medical facilities until well into the Great War – and czarist Russia never did). Certainly, the Confederate infantry,

BOTH IMAGES: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

in particular had developed a superb modern staff.

man for man, remained notably superior to that of the Union – but that only prolonged Southern suffering.

By late 1864, a distinctly American way of war had emerged: Superb, redundant logistics; the expectation that subordinates would show initiative; unprecedented support of the common soldier (although not every soldier over the generations would believe that); an emphasis on strategic mobility, operational maneuver and relentless tactical pounding; the aggressive and skillful use of artillery; organizational uniformity and interoperability; and the embrace of the latest technologies. Even “medevac” capabilities, however crude they seem to us today, were remarkably humane and well-organized for the time, with field surgeries, dedicated wagon trains to evacuate the wounded, holding hospitals in the operational rear, hospital ships to speed casualties to vast, fixed hospitals in the strategic rear, and a new emphasis on sanitation. Today, the U.S. Armed Forces continue the tradition of caring for our wounded with a dedication and level of resourcing unmatched by any other military.

The single area in which both the Confederacy and the Union failed disgracefully was the care of prisoners of war once they reached fixed camps. But that’s another tale.

As for the role of literacy teased above, the ability to read and write competently may have been the key “combat multiplier” missed by historians studying our Civil War. While the United States in the 1860s was already the second most literate nation (after Prussia), educational opportunities had varied within the states that formed the Union and the Confederacy. All of the Union’s states had high literacy rates for white males, with a rate of 99 percent or higher in at least four states: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut. In the South, at the lower end of the scale, the white-male literacy rate in North Carolina was only 72 men with elementary reading and writing skills out of every 100 – and that from a lower population base. While an illiterate or semi-literate man of the hills or a low-country sharecropper could still make a superb infantryman in the 1860s, he was not going to perform well as a quartermaster, commissary, engineer or other staff functionary – or even as a first sergeant (as inept Confederate record-keeping demonstrated).

Indeed, by the closing year of the war, the Army of the Potomac in particular had developed a superb modern staff (the crossing of the James River in June 1864 was a military feat that would remain unrivaled in Europe until the following century), but Lee’s staff was small, informal and inadequate, if brave and spirited. At the highest military levels (the “strategic rear” in modern parlance), Union administration vastly outshone that of the Confederacy. The War Department in Washington could promptly replace anything, from uniforms to cavalry mounts, for units sprawled halfway across a continent, while Richmond, despite full warehouses, could not (and would not) supply an army going hungry and barefoot so close to the capital that bureaucrats could hear the sound of its guns.

Those who prefer to see war only in terms of gallant battlefield

struggles may have difficulty with the idea, but those magnificent Southern infantrymen were defeated by clerks.

The “damned Yankees” won with requisition forms.

AUSTRO-PRUSSIAN WAR, 1866

Military observers from all of the great European powers witnessed our Civil War from both sides of the lines. And they learned absolutely nothing. All of the lessons were there, from the phenomenal killing power of modern weapons and the criticality of entrenchments, to the challenges of tactical control on expanding battlefields. But instead of appreciating that Union and Confederate generals and colonels were struggling – increasingly successfully – to integrate an unprecedented range of technological developments, the Europeans wrote off the Americans as hopeless, inept amateurs (nor would their archaic view of officership have permitted the rise of brilliant non-professionals such as Francis Channing Barlow or John Brown Gordon – they missed the democratization of war, too).

As a result, Cold Harbor would be repeated on a massive scale 50 years later on the Western Front and the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge at Gettysburg would be amplified horrifically on the Somme as lines of Allied infantry trotted into an inferno of machine guns, barbed wire and massed heavy artillery. The Siege of Petersburg, too, would play an encore on a gargantuan scale at Verdun.

But if the Europeans refused to learn anything from the American experience, one power, Prussia, led by one military genius, Helmuth von Moltke, would force its own breakthrough into the modern age. If the era of modern warfare was inaugurated between the opening day of The Wilderness and the grand assault at Cold Harbor, the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 confirmed that there would be no going back to the old

ways, and that no amount of valor would trump thorough organization, rigorous planning, sophisticated training and the militarization of the latest technologies.

The turning-point battle for Europeans arrived on July 3, 1866, at the climax of a brilliant campaign (and on the third anniversary of the Pickett-Pettigrew Charge at Gettysburg). The Battle of Königgrätz, also known as Sadowa, was a clash not only of armies, but also between the old and new ways of making war. Prussia’s peerless Chief of the General Staff, Helmuth von Moltke, was one of those rare men in history who immediately grasp the deeper implications of new technologies. In von Moltke’s case, he understood the potential for rapid mobilization and deployment offered by Prussia’s advanced rail net, telegraphic communications and sophisticated government bureaucracy. He also appreciated the value of Prussia’s primary infantry weapon, the breech-loading “needle gun,” with its rapid rate of fire; but Moltke’s greatest insight was that a thoroughly planned, lightning-swift attack (the forerunner of the *Blitzkrieg*) now could be staged that would wrong-foot an opponent from the start, keep him reeling, and allow a smaller nation with an efficient military to defeat a larger one.

Von Moltke also grasped that, operationally, Napoleon’s preferred



The significant casualties on both sides that resulted from Grant’s 1864 Overland Campaign demonstrated that Napoleonic tactics had been rendered obsolete in the era of rifled and repeating weapons.

Von Moltke never planned a campaign without

technique of seizing a central position between enemy armies and defeating them in detail had been turned on its head as armies swelled in size, threatening to overburden individual lines of communication, while the railroad, properly exploited, allowed converging armies to join together at the point of decision with previously unthinkable speed: The Napoleonic model had, literally, run out of time.

With a well-executed strategy of convergence, a force of approximately 200,000 men, such as Prussia would deploy against the Austrian North Army in 1866, could deploy on three axes that, initially, were widely separated, allowing them to triple the number of roads along which they advanced: An army that on a single prime LOC might have stretched for a hundred kilometers could move in three compact elements of 30 kilometers or less (the smaller size of each force reducing the "accordion effect" that every man who has ever served in an infantry unit understands all too well). Indeed, a colleague remarked of von Moltke that he never planned a campaign without first consulting the Prussian railway timetables.

Having cut his teeth on a four-year detail to train the Turkish army to European standards in the late 1830s, von Moltke never forgot the lesson that even the most perfect plan will not work perfectly (as training the Turks did not). And while the Prussian army produced superb officers and, especially, General Staff officers, a crown prince would inevitably head one army, another member of the royal family a second, and a general favored by the court a third. Von Moltke's solution, building on the legacy established by Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, was to insure that field staffs were filled with highly competent officers who, if they could not guarantee the best results, would prevent the worst.

As for the tactical level, the killing power of the Prussian *Nadelgewehr* had been demonstrated in a number of small engagements during the Danish War of 1864, when Austria and Prussia had fought side by side for the political Germanization of Schleswig-Holstein (an issue that would lead directly to the Austro-Prussian War of 1866). Austrian offi-



German Field Marshal Helmuth von Moltke immediately grasped the impact of new battlefield technologies. His thoroughly planned, lightning-swift attacks were the forerunner of *Blitzkrieg*.

cers witnessed the rate of fire and accuracy of the rifle in the hands of Prussia's well-trained soldiers, but questioned the implications for full-scale battles. And Vienna's own poor excuse for a general staff convinced itself that breech-loading rifles would only waste ammunition, while Austria's difficult to command polyglot army would continue to do its best work with the bayonet.

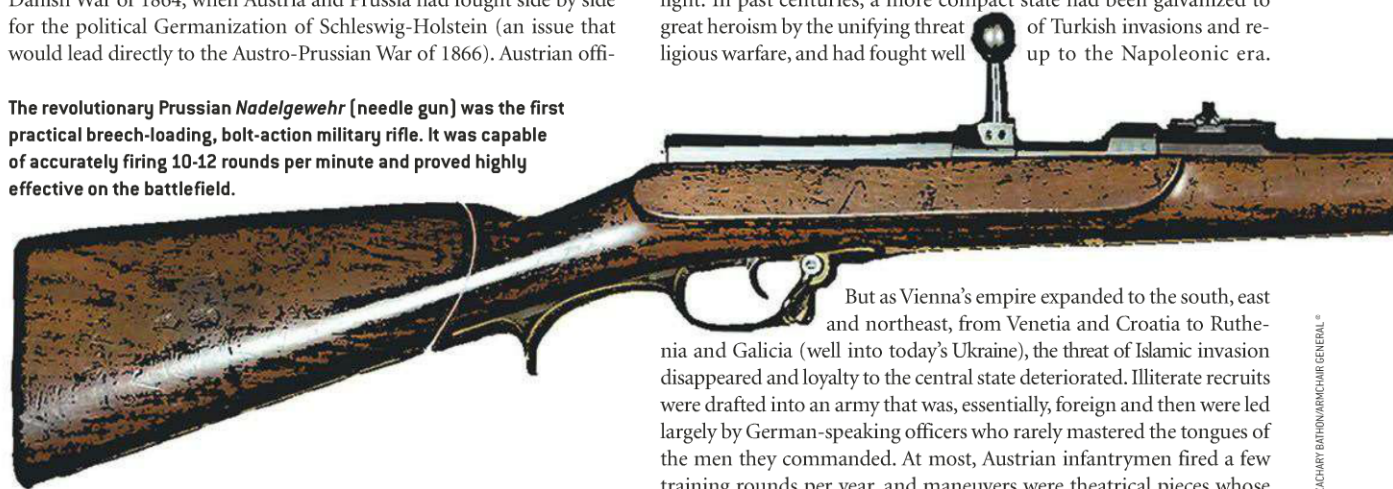
No one, not even the Prussians, was fully prepared for the effect of the needle gun deployed army-wide.

When his king finally authorized von Moltke to mobilize and go to war, he initially had to fight on two fronts: In the West, against the several German states allied with Austria, and, to the south, in Bohemia (today's Czech Republic), against the main Austrian army (which would be joined by the Saxon army after Saxony's lightning-swift occupation by the Prussians). The railroads were the strategic key, but Prussia also had several

other "modern" advantages to compensate for its deficiency in numbers: It had a literate population, with a century-old requirement for at least eight years of schooling for all citizens (a policy introduced by Frederick the Great in 1763), complete with centralized teaching standards and universal exams. As a result, the Prussian soldier could absorb new concepts more rapidly than his foreign counterpart, while also capable of showing greater battlefield initiative. To top it off, the Prussian population was caught up in the vivid nationalism that had begun to sweep Europe. Von Moltke had as his instrument an army that not only *could* outfight its enemies, but enthusiastically *wanted* to outfight them.

The Austrian army remained "old school," and its leadership can be described in the words applied to the Bourbon dynasty of France and Naples: "They learned nothing, and they forgot nothing." In Austria, the state itself was rotten, with the Habsburg dynasty entering its long twilight. In past centuries, a more compact state had been galvanized to great heroism by the unifying threat of Turkish invasions and religious warfare, and had fought well up to the Napoleonic era.

The revolutionary Prussian *Nadelgewehr* (needle gun) was the first practical breech-loading, bolt-action military rifle. It was capable of accurately firing 10-12 rounds per minute and proved highly effective on the battlefield.



But as Vienna's empire expanded to the south, east and northeast, from Venetia and Croatia to Ruthenia and Galicia (well into today's Ukraine), the threat of Islamic invasion disappeared and loyalty to the central state deteriorated. Illiterate recruits were drafted into an army that was, essentially, foreign and then were led largely by German-speaking officers who rarely mastered the tongues of the men they commanded. At most, Austrian infantrymen fired a few training rounds per year, and maneuvers were theatrical pieces whose

ULLSTEIN BILD/THE GRANGER COLLECTION, N.Y.

ZACHARY BATHON/ARMCHAIR GENERAL

first consulting the Prussian railway timetables.

benchmark for achievement was getting a regiment to march respectably and show up roughly where it was meant to appear.

Officership emphasized valor, but discouraged initiative. At the highest levels, the ability to intrigue at court and play cards well eclipsed military ability. Nor were rigorously trained staff officers available to ameliorate the blunders of commanders. General Ludwig Benedek, who would be entrusted with Austria's main army (the North Army facing the Prussians) had performed reasonably well as a tactical commander in 1859 and, in an army starved for heroes, had seen his reputation soar out of any reasonable bounds. Fond of the easy living in Italy, where he "homesteaded" during the years of peace, the advent of war in 1866 saw him transferred abruptly to Bohemia, a theater of war of which he had little more than a schoolboy's knowledge. Faced with the Prussian onslaught – always faster and more effective than he could credit – Benedek perfectly fit the clichéd description of "a deer caught in the headlights."

Benedek never exercised firm command of his army and never formulated a complete, coherent campaign plan. As with an unfortunate number of American generals today, he had been promoted above his level of competence – a good tactical fighter was expected to become a strategist overnight simply because he had drawn the assignment. Unsure of what the Prussians would do, Benedek marched and counter-marched in confusion, exhausting his troops even before the first shots were fired, and he left supplies of wire for field telegraphs untouched on the spools. At no point in the campaign did he fully understand where Prussia's three converging armies were located and he often was mistaken about the location of his own corps on a given day. (See Battle of Königgrätz map.) As for his subordinates, they fought their early battles not as part of a strategic design, but because the Prussians suddenly showed up.

Austria's greatest ally in the Königgrätz campaign didn't come from its German partners, which were easily swept aside by smaller Prussian forces, but from the lack of infrastructure – the underdevelopment – the Prussians faced once they crossed the borders onto Austrian territory. Railroads and well-kept roadways delivered the Prussians to their jumping-off points, but the poor roads through the barrier mountains down to the plateaus and river valleys of Bohemia slowed the Prussian advance and played havoc with Prussian logistics (those convinced of the superiority of all things German should note that Prussian logistics were amateurish compared to those of the Union Army in our Civil War's final



Chief of the Prussian General Staff Helmuth von Moltke's brilliant opening moves of the 1866 Austro-Prussian War converged three widely spaced armies against the ill-led Austrian North Army at Königgrätz. The result was the most impressive battlefield victory on European soil since Napoleon's 1805 triumph at Austerlitz.

others from the empire's fringes disintegrated.

As the Prussians converged, Benedek alternated between fits of resignation and impulsive activity. By the first days of July, partly through design but largely by accident, he finally concentrated his army – but with its back to the Elbe River and the outdated Königgrätz fortress on the opposite bank.

Although Königgrätz would end as a decisive Prussian victory, it was



years, and many a Prussian unit went hungry, thirsty and unattended by medical support – the latter always inadequate in Europe: Cholera would kill more Prussians than Austrian gunnery did).

Still, the Prussians advanced with comparative rapidity and a series of bloody encounter battles saw dashing Austrian infantry brigades devastated by rapid, accurate Prussian rifle fire. Some Austrian units – particularly from the German-speaking homelands, but not only those – were wildly, almost hysterically brave, while

a close-run affair in its opening hours. Moltke's ability to coordinate his three armies broke down at the tactical level, and the weakest two, the Elbe Army and First Army, initiated the battle prematurely (the downside of encouraging initiative). For the first half of the day, the Prussians were outnumbered 2-to-1 (by the end of the day, over 450,000 combatants would crowd into eight square miles, twice the number Grant and Lee fielded at any time during the Overland Campaign and the largest number of soldiers on a European battlefield since Leipzig in 1813).

Von Moltke had won the most impressive battlefield



July 3, 1866. Frederick, Crown Prince of Prussia, observes Prussian soldiers as they advance during the Battle of Königgrätz. (Illustration from *The Illustrated London News*, London, August 18, 1866.)

The disparity in numbers was aggravated by the effectiveness of the one Austrian fighting arm that was relatively professional and modern, the artillery. Von Moltke had paid insufficient attention to his own gunners (an oversight he would soon correct) and, despite nonsense from some historians regarding the “redeeming” charges of the Austrian cavalry, even in the battle’s final hours, as Benedek’s outflanked army collapsed, only Austrian cannon saved that army from annihilation.

First, though, the Prussians had to make headway against the massive enemy force. The first of the day’s significant collisions occurred in a hilly wooded area, the Svib Forest or Swiep Wald. A single Prussian infantry division – armed with needle guns – was able to assault, penetrate, drive back, delay against and, reinforced by a second division late in the day, decimate multiple Austrian corps. The slaughter on both sides was tremendous, as elite units engaged one another with determination, but the casualties in the forest were at least as disproportionate as those for the entire battle: Five Austrians killed, wounded or captured for every Prussian casualty.

The lack of adequate staffs at all levels crippled the Austrians throughout the day. Unit reports were spotty and often wrong. Troop movements were uncoordinated and orders,

when they arrived at all, were often contradictory or countermanded in mid-effort. Instead of relying on the best local defensive ground, Benedek had neglected much of it and abandoned other key terrain in the course of the battle – only to try to retake it with hopeless frontal assaults. As the Prussian Second Army, under the Crown Prince, began to arrive on the field and thrust into the Austrian right flank, more and more Austrian units simply dissolved at the first burst of enemy fire. The Prussian right flank, which had been bogged down, renewed the attack and punched into the Austrian left, while Benedek’s center came under renewed pressure.

For the Austrians, defeat threatened to become irretrievable disaster. Senior officers were swept along in a sea of fleeing troops. Cavalry charges ordered to delay the Prussian advance disintegrated under converging artillery and rifle fire from the surrounding heights. Austrian batteries struggling to go into action were overwhelmed by mobs of their own troops. Panicked Austrian officers ordered the premature destruction of several tactical bridges in the army’s rear and soldiers drowned in the Elbe’s swift current. The Königgrätz fortress commandant closed his gates against the retreating troops. And the Austrian army was essentially leaderless.



Austrian Gen. Ludwig Benedek was a solid tactical commander but was promoted above his level of competence. His blunders – and von Moltke’s genius – led to an Austrian disaster at the Battle of Königgrätz.

TOP: UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/UTM; THE BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY; BOTTOM: ARMCHAIR GENERAL ARCHIVES

victory on European soil since Austerlitz in 1805.



July 3, 1866. The united Prussian armies under von Moltke defeat the main Austrian army under Benedek at the Battle of Königgrätz. (Painting by Christian Sell.)

Von Moltke came close to realizing his dream of a *Kesselschlacht*, a cauldron battle in the style of Cannae. Exploiting the latest *civilian* technology, he had all but enveloped the Austrians at the operational level; now, he was close to a double envelopment at the tactical level, an epochal victory.

It didn't quite work out. As with the Union Army at Spotsylvania, it proved impossible to maintain tactical control. Units were intermingled, and the men were exhausted (those of the Second Army had made a forced march to the battlefield, while all of the Prussians had been marching hard for days on inadequate rations – some with no food at all). Not least, the sheer mass of Austrian troops rendered movement difficult, where not impossible.

But von Moltke had won the most impressive battlefield victory on European soil since Austerlitz in 1805. Minor actions continued in the Italian theater of war (in the wake of the slovenly bloodbath at Custoza, where an Austrian army had trounced the Italians at great cost), as did formal hostilities in the north, but the name assigned to the conflict, the “Seven Weeks’ War,” indicates just how much the modern Prussian army had achieved.

War was modern.

And the pace of change would intensify. A mere four years later, when Prussia and its new German allies (Austria’s former clients) invaded France, the armies would be larger, the preparatory training even more intense and the Prussian artillery renewed with the latest steel, breech-loading cannon. The French, for their part, would introduce the *mitrailleuse*, an early machine gun mounted on a light ar-

tillery carriage, with a sustained rate of fire of 100 rounds per minute. On the rare occasions when the French used it effectively, it was devastating, but the conservative French high command had fielded barely 200 of the weapons and, far worse, kept its existence so secret that many division and even corps commanders had no idea of what it was meant to do when it suddenly appeared in their sectors. Inept tactics, which viewed the *mitrailleuse* as an artillery weapon, rather than one to be integrated with the infantry, further undercut the breakthrough weapon’s utility.

Still, the road to Paris was lined with more uniformed Prussian and German bodies than French, thanks to the killing power of French rifles wielded defensively, but the historical impetus, as well as military professionalism, favored von Moltke and his protégés. The classic envelopment at Metz, followed by the breathtaking encirclement and moral collapse of the French army at Sedan, set a standard for military art that would persist until the age of atomic weapons.

The Franco-Prussian War would end with the collapse of the French monarchy; Paris besieged; the bloody Commune, a leftist revolution that foreshadowed the events of 1917-18 in Russia; extensive guerrilla warfare and harsh reprisals; and the unexpected unification of Germany.

Not only war, but the world, had entered the modern age. ★

Ralph Peters is a longtime member of the “Armchair General” team. A former enlisted man and retired Army officer, he is the author of the bestseller “Cain at Gettysburg” and a new novel of the “birth of modern war” battles from The Wilderness through Cold Harbor, “Hell or Richmond.”

AMERICA'S MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES

FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO AFGHANISTAN, THE UNITED STATES' HIGHEST VALOR AWARD
HAS RECOGNIZED FEATS OF COURAGE AND SACRIFICE.

BY JAMES H. WILLBANKS

On October 25, 2007, in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, a patrol from 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, was returning to Combat Outpost Vimoto when it ran into a Taliban ambush. In the intense battle that ensued, Sergeant Joshua Brennan, walking point, was hit multiple times. During the fire-fight, two Taliban began to drag Brennan away from the kill zone. Specialist Salvatore Giunta, one of the fire team leaders, seeing that the enemy intended to capture his comrade, exposed himself to withering enemy fire and sprinted after the Taliban, killing one and wounding the other, after which he provided medical aid to Sergeant Brennan and dragged him back to safety. For this courageous and selfless act under intense enemy fire, Specialist Giunta was nominated for the Medal of Honor.

On November 16, 2010, Salvatore Giunta, then staff sergeant, received the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama in a White House ceremony. Giunta became the first living person to receive the nation's highest decoration for valor for actions that have occurred since the Vietnam War.

BORN IN BATTLE

When the president placed the medal on its distinctive blue ribbon around Staff Sergeant Giunta's neck, the young Soldier became a member of one of the most exclusive fraternities in the world. More than 40 million men and women have served in the armed forces of the United



The original Medal of Honor, first issued in 1863, was different from the one awarded today. The original medal was also worn on the chest while today's is worn around the neck.

States since the beginning of the Civil War, but fewer than 3,500 men and one woman have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest award for military valor and it can be awarded to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. It is presented by the president of the United States in the name of Congress and thus is often mistakenly referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is awarded for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty." Given the inherently dangerous nature of its criteria, the Medal of Honor is often awarded posthumously.

The Medal of Honor did not exist until the Civil War. However, the idea of recognizing individual acts of bravery dates back to the Revolutionary War. The Badge of Military Merit was established by General George Washington, commander in chief of the Continental Army, on August 7, 1782. The award, which consisted of a purple cloth heart, was designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," and records indicate that only three persons received it.

The Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, although it would be revived in 1932 as the Purple Heart, which would be awarded to those who had been wounded in World War I and in subsequent conflicts. In the interim, there were several efforts to devise a way to recognize individual valor on the battlefield. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "cer-

COURTESY, CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY



November 16, 2010. President Barack Obama presents the Medal of Honor to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta during a presentation ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, D.C. Giunta received the medal for rescuing two members of his squad during an insurgent ambush on his platoon in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley in October 2007.

tificate of merit" was established for those who distinguished themselves during battle, but it was discontinued after the war.

Early in the Civil War, the idea of a medal for bravery on the battlefield was proposed to General Winfield Scott, then Union general in chief, but he rejected the idea because he thought medals smacked of European affectation. However, a similar proposal was presented to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, who endorsed the idea of creating a medal for valorous service for enlisted men in the Navy and Marine Corps. Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa introduced a bill in Congress, which President Abraham Lincoln signed in December 1861.

The next year, a "medal of honor" was created for the Army, largely due to the efforts of Edward D. Townsend, assistant adjutant general, and Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson. The bill creating the Army Medal of Honor was signed into law in July 1862. The medal was to be awarded "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier like qualities."

Although the medal was proposed only for the Civil War, Congress made it permanent in 1863, extending provisions to include officers as well as enlisted men, and making the provisions retroactive to the beginning of the Civil War. The Medal of Honor has remained the highest and most prestigious award that can be presented to members of the U.S. armed forces.

CIVIL WAR

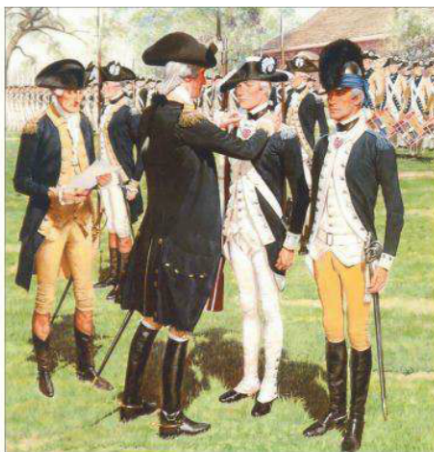
The first act of valor that would be recognized with the Medal of Honor occurred on February 13, 1861, a year before the medal was proposed. Bernard J.D. Irwin, an Army assistant surgeon, led a group of 14 men into Apache Pass, Ariz., to rescue 60 Soldiers surrounded by a band of Indians. However, Irwin would not actually receive the medal until 1894, over 30 years later.

Army Private Francis Edwin Brownell was involved in the first action to merit the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. On May 24, 1861, he killed the murderer of Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth, colonel of the 11th New York Regiment, in Alexandria, Va. However, Brownell would not receive the medal until 1877.

John Williams, captain of USS *Pawnee*, was the first to receive the Navy Medal of Honor, for his bravery in leaving no man behind in a desperate June 1861 battle off Mathias Point, Va. However, Williams would not receive the medal until April 1863.

On March 25, 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton made the first-ever presentation of the Medal of Honor, presenting one each to six of the surviving members of the famous Andrews' Raiders. The first to receive the medal was Private Jacob Parrott.

In April 1862, Parrott had been part of the force of 23 military and civilian volunteers led by civilian James J. Andrews that



May 3, 1783. Gen. George Washington awards the Badge of Military Merit to Sgt. Elijah Churchill (right), of 2d Continental Light Dragoons, and to Sgt. William Brown, of 5th Connecticut Regiment, Continental Line, during a ceremony at Washington's headquarters at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, N.Y.



Over time, the requirements became stricter and fewer Medals



LEFT: Pvt. Jacob Parrott, a member of the famous Andrews' Raiders, was the first-ever recipient of the Medal of Honor. **CENTER:** Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a Civil War civilian surgeon, was awarded the Medal of Honor in November 1865. Although her medal was revoked in 1917, it was reinstated in 1977. To date, Edwards is the only female Medal of Honor recipient. **RIGHT:** Lt. Thomas Custer, brother of George Armstrong Custer, was the first person to receive two Medals of Honor for two separate actions during the Civil War.

struck deep into Confederate territory at Marietta, Ga. There, Andrews' Raiders captured an entire train pulled by the locomotive *General* in an effort to disrupt the lines of transportation between Atlanta, Ga., and Chattanooga, Tenn. The Raiders were pursued by locomotive and eventually captured, after which seven of them, including Andrews, were hanged as spies. Four of those hanged also received the Medal of Honor; they were the first to receive the medal posthumously. In all, 19 of the 24 Andrews' Raiders were awarded the Medal of Honor, but not Andrews – as a civilian, he was deemed ineligible for the award.

The first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was John Freeman Mackie, who, while serving on the Union ironclad *Galena* during the attack on Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff, Va., "fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits on shore, and when ordered to fill vacancies caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned his weapon with skill and courage."

During the Civil War, a total of 1,522 Medals of Honor were awarded to Army and Navy personnel, including 17 to enlisted Marines. One of the Civil War recipients was Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a civilian surgeon with the Union Army. Walker is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor and one of only eight civilians to receive it.

Second Lieutenant Thomas Custer, brother of George Armstrong Custer, became the first to receive two Medals of Honor for two separate actions during the Civil War. Tom Custer later died with his brother at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Only 13 other people have received two distinct Medals of Honor for two separate actions (five others received both the Army and Navy medals for the same action).

During this early period, there were no detailed criteria or time limits for presentation of the award. Therefore, many Medals of Honor went to individuals who did nothing particularly heroic. For example, President Lincoln authorized the award of the medal to 864 members of 27th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment simply for re-enlisting.

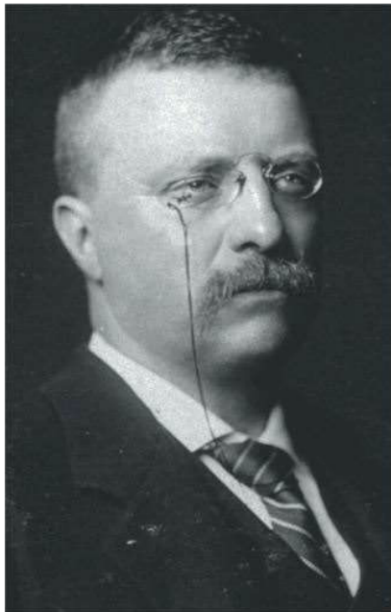
POST-CIVIL WAR

Over time, the requirements became stricter and fewer Medals of Honor were awarded. In 1897, Congress passed legislation to insure that the medal could be awarded only for "gallantry and intrepidity." Furthermore, nomination for the award had to be made by someone other than the individual being nominated. Additionally, one or more eyewitnesses had to testify under oath about the deed, and the recommendation had to be submitted within one year of the act for which the medal would be awarded.

In September 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order outlining the basic policy for the actual presentation of the Medal of Honor. This order directed that award of the medal "will always be made with formal and impressive ceremonial occasions" and that the recipient will, when practicable, be ordered to Washington, D.C., where the presentation will be made by the president, as commander in chief, or by such representative as the president may designate. If it proved impractical for the recipient to come to Washington, as it eventually would during World Wars I and II, the service chief of staff would designate the time and place for the award ceremony. President Roosevelt presented the first Medal of Honor at the White House to one of his old Rough Rider comrades, U.S. Army Assistant Surgeon

FROM LEFT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION; NATIONAL ARCHIVES; NATIONAL ARCHIVES

of Honor were awarded.



LEFT: In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt elevated the stature of the Medal of Honor by signing an executive order directing that the medal be presented in the name of Congress by the president or his representative. **CENTER + RIGHT:** In the early 1900s, Marine Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler (center) and Sgt. Maj. Daniel Daly joined the select group of individuals who had received two Medals of Honor for two separate actions.

James Robb Church, on January 10, 1906, setting the precedent for the White House Medal of Honor ceremonies that continues to this day.

During the period between the Civil War and World War I, U.S. forces fought in a number of conflicts, including the Indian Wars, 1871 Korean Campaign, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, and several campaigns in Mexico and Central America. A total of 769 Medals of Honor were awarded during these years. Within this period, two Marines joined the select group who received two Medals of Honor for two separate actions. Major General Smedley D. Butler received his medals for Veracruz (1914) and Haiti (1915), and Sergeant Major Daniel Daly received his for Peking (1900) and Haiti (1915).

In 1916, intending to redress perceived earlier abuses in awarding the medal, the War Department established a Medal of Honor review board. It consisted of five retired general officers headed by Medal of Honor recipient General Nelson A. Miles. The board was charged to consider all 2,625 medals presented by the Army up to that time. It released its findings in 1917, striking the names of 911 Medal of Honor recipients, most from the Civil War, whom the board considered undeserving of the medal. The deleted names included all several hundred men in the 27th Maine who received the medals for re-enlisting; 29 members of President Lincoln's funeral guard; and six civilians, whose courage was not questioned but who were deemed ineligible for the medal as civilians. Among these were five scouts, including Buffalo Bill Cody, who had served in the Indian Campaigns, and Civil War surgeon Mary Edwards Walker. The medals of Dr. Walker, Cody, and the other scouts were later restored in 1977.

WORLD WAR I THROUGH WORLD WAR II

During World War I, 124 Medals of Honor were awarded (95 Army, 21 Navy, and eight Marine Corps), 33 of them posthumously. Famous Medal of Honor recipients from World War I were Sergeant Alvin York, Army Air Corps ace Eddie Rickenbacker, and Lieutenant Colonel William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan (later head of the World War II Office of Strategic Services and "Father of the Central Intelligence Agency").

In 1921-23, the president signed congressional legislation awarding the Medal of Honor to the Unknown Soldiers of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and Romania. Later, the Medal of Honor was awarded to the American Unknown Soldiers of World War II (1948), Korean War (1957), and Vietnam War (1984).

During 1920-40, Medal of Honor awards continued to be rare, but regulations then still permitted awarding the medal for peacetime bravery and distinguished acts not involving combat. Commander Richard E. Byrd and Warrant Officer Floyd Bennett each received the Medal of Honor for their 1926 flight over the North Pole. Charles Lindbergh was awarded the medal for his famous 1927 trans-Atlantic solo flight from New York to Paris in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. Four Sailors were awarded the Medal of Honor for risking their lives to save the crew of the sunken American submarine USS *Squalus* in May 1939. (The Navy had long awarded the medal for non-combat actions. From 1901-11, 48 Navy Medals of Honor were given for actions involving boiler explosions on board ships, shipboard fires and lifesaving.)

With the outbreak of World War II, the award of the Medal of Honor once again focused on recognizing valor above and beyond the call of duty in combat against an armed enemy. The award of the medal re-



Even though 16 million Americans served in World War II, fewer



LEFT: Army Air Corps ace Eddie Rickenbacker, officially credited with shooting down 22 enemy planes, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during World War I. **CENTER:** Pilot Charles Lindbergh received the Medal of Honor for his famous 1927 trans-Atlantic solo flight from New York to Paris in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. **RIGHT:** Marine Sgt. John Basilone received the Medal of Honor for his actions on October 24-25, 1942, during the Battle of Guadalcanal. He was killed on Iwo Jima in February 1945.

remained rare. Even though 16 million Americans served in World War II, fewer than 500 Medals of Honor were awarded (more than half of them posthumously). Among the most famous World War II recipients were Army infantryman Audie Murphy, Marine fighter ace Joe Foss, and Marine John Basilone, whose story was featured in the HBO miniseries *The Pacific*.

Only one member of the U.S. Coast Guard (under the Department of the Navy in wartime) has ever received the Medal of Honor. Coast Guardsman Douglas Munro was awarded the medal posthumously for his actions at Point Cruz during the Battle of Guadalcanal in September 1942.

KOREA AND VIETNAM

In June 1950, the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. During the Korean War's three bloody years of fighting that followed, 133 Medals of Honor, including 42 to Marines, were awarded for heroism (95 of them posthumously). Included among the U.S. Army heroes who received the medal during the Korean War were Captain Lewis L. Millett, Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud and Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman had created the United States Air Force as a separate branch of the armed forces. However, during the Korean War, members of the Air Force who were awarded the Medal of Honor received the Army medal. In 1956, three years after the war's end, Congress passed legislation establishing the Air Force Medal of Honor, distinct from the Army and Navy medals (Marines continued to receive the Navy medal).

In 1963, Congress again tightened regulations governing the award of the Medal of Honor. The heroic act leading to the nomination for the medal had to occur while the potential recipient was engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force, or serving with friendly forces in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States was not a belligerent party.

The first Medal of Honor awarded during the Vietnam War went to Army Special Forces Captain Roger H.C. Donlon for his actions at Nam Dong in July 1964. During the Vietnam War, nearly 250 Medals of Honor were awarded (about half of them posthumously). Donlon was joined on the list of Vietnam War recipients by Marine Major Jay R. Vargas, Air Force Sergeant John Levitow, Admiral James Stockdale, and Bob Kerrey, a Navy SEAL who became governor of Nebraska and U.S. senator.

During the Vietnam War period, there was one exception to the enemy action rule. Commander William McGonagle received the Medal of Honor for his actions while in command of USS *Liberty* when it was mistakenly attacked by the Israel Defense Forces in the Eastern Mediterranean on June 8, 1967, during the Six Day War.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Since the 1980s, a number of Medals of Honor have been belatedly awarded to correct past administrative errors, oversights, or to consider previous recommendations as a result of new evidence. On July 19, 1980, President Jimmy Carter presented the Medal of Honor to Matt Urban 36 years after Urban had performed numerous acts of valor during the fighting in France and Belgium in World War II. On February 24,

FROM LEFT: NATIONAL ARCHIVES; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION; OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO

than 500 Medals of Honor were awarded.



LEFT: Coast Guardsman Douglas Munro, the only member of the Coast Guard to receive the Medal of Honor, was awarded the medal posthumously for his actions at Point Cruz during the Battle of Guadalcanal in September 1942. **CENTER:** Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud Jr., for whom Camp Red Cloud in Uijeongbu, South Korea, is named, was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for holding off a night attack on November 5, 1950, during the Korean War. **RIGHT:** Army Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon received the first Vietnam War Medal of Honor for his July 6, 1964, defense of an isolated Nam Dong Special Forces camp.

1981, President Ronald Reagan presented the Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant Roy Benavidez for his valor during the Vietnam War. On April 24, 1991, President George H.W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor to the family of World War I hero Corporal Freddie Stowers for his extraordinary and inspirational valor during the 1918 Meuse Argonne Campaign. Stowers was an African-American who was mortally wounded while attempting to destroy a machine gun that had pinned down his unit. The paperwork recommending him for the award had been lost for over 70 years.

In 1993, a special study was commissioned to investigate racial discrimination in the awarding of medals in World War II; no African-Americans had received the Medal of Honor for action during the war. The study concluded with a recommendation that several African-American Distinguished Service Cross recipients be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. On January 13, 1997, President Bill Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to seven African-Americans. Six were posthumous awards; only former 1st Lieutenant Vernon Baker was present to receive the award for action in Italy in 1945.

A similar study was conducted in 1998 to examine the records of Asian-Americans who had served in World War II. On June 21, 2000, President Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to 22 Asian-Americans for their World War II courage, including U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and 19 Japanese-Americans who had served in the famous 442d Regimental Combat Team in the European Theater of Operations.

Periodically, other additions have been made to the Medal of Honor Roll of Heroes to correct past oversights. On January 21, 2001, President Clinton presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore

Roosevelt for his bravery in the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt thus became one of two sets of father-son Medal of Honor recipients; his son, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr., had received the medal for his June 6, 1944, actions on D-Day. The other father-son recipients were Arthur MacArthur, for his 1863 heroism during the Civil War, and his son, Douglas MacArthur, for leading the defense of the Philippines early in World War II.

President Clinton also presented Medals of Honor to James Day for heroism in World War II, Robert Ingram and Alfred Rascon for actions in Vietnam, and Andrew Jackson Smith posthumously for gallantry in the Civil War.

President George W. Bush presented Medals of Honor to Ed Freeman, Bruce Crandall, Jon Swanson, and Humbert Versace (the last two posthumously) for Vietnam, to Ed Salomon for World War II, and to Woodrow Keeble (the first full-blooded Sioux to receive the Medal of Honor) and Tibor Rubin for the Korean War. Rubin was a Jewish veteran and Holocaust survivor who some believed was originally overlooked for the medal due to anti-Semitism.

On May 2, 2011, President Barack Obama presented posthumous Medals of Honor to the families of Army Privates 1st Class Henry Svehla and Anthony T. Kaho'ohanohano. Both awards were for valorous acts performed by the men as riflemen in the Korean War.

POST-VIETNAM WAR

The award of the Medal of Honor has been exceedingly rare for conflicts since the end of the Vietnam War. There were no awards of the medal during Grenada, Panama, Lebanon or Desert Storm. Two Medals



President Harry S. Truman reportedly said, “I’d rather wear that



LEFT: April 4, 1991. President George H.W. Bush posthumously awards the Medal of Honor to Cpl. Freddie Stowers for his actions during World War I. Stowers is the only African-American to receive the medal for action during that war. **RIGHT:** January 13, 1997. President Bill Clinton shakes hands with Vernon Baker after presenting him with the Medal of Honor. In a long awaited ceremony, Baker and six other veterans became the first African-American Soldiers of World War II to receive the medal.

of Honor were awarded for action in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993: Master Sergeant Gary Gordon and Sergeant 1st Class Randy Shughart received the medal posthumously for their actions during the fighting recounted in the book and movie *Blackhawk Down*.

At present, only four Medals of Honor have been awarded for valor in the Iraq War, all posthumously: Marine Jason Dunham, Army Private Ross McGinnis, Navy SEAL Michael Monsoor and Army Sergeant Paul Smith. Similarly, only seven Medals of Honor have been awarded in the Afghanistan War, three posthumously (Army Sergeants Robert Miller and Jared Monti and Navy SEAL Michael Murphy). After Staff Sergeant Giunta became the first living recipient presented the Medal of Honor for action since the Vietnam War, he has been joined by Army Staff Sergeants Leroy A. Petry and Clinton Romesha and Marine Sergeant Dakota Meyer. Petry and Meyer received their Medals of Honor from President Obama during White House ceremonies in 2011, while Romesha received his in 2013.

The Medal of Honor is the ultimate symbol of courage and valor under fire and is awarded to only the bravest of the brave; as such, the medal and its recipients are rightfully objects of awe and veneration. It is such an extraordinary honor that President Harry S. Truman, himself a Soldier in World War I, reportedly said, “I’d rather wear that medal than be president of the United States.”

The Medal of Honor is the epitome of valor and selfless service, and many who received the medal made the supreme sacrifice – giving their lives – in that service. The recipients of the Medal of Honor are officers

and enlisted men from all branches of the service. They come from all walks of life and from many different ethnic backgrounds and cultures. They come from all over the country, and even some foreign lands. They come from every armed service and have seen action in America’s wars from the Civil War to Afghanistan. Despite all these differences, the recipients of the Medal of Honor all share one thing in common. At some point in their lives, they selflessly performed extraordinarily courageous acts in the face of almost insurmountable odds – deeds that were clearly “above and beyond the call of duty.”

More often than not, those who survived to receive their Medals of Honor accepted them in honor of their comrades who fought and sometimes died in the defense of their nation. Perhaps Canadian-born Vietnam hero and Medal of Honor recipient Peter Lemon summed this up best when he told a group of young students, “Whenever you see the medal, you see millions of people out there who have given their service and sacrificed for your freedom.” In that sense, the Medal of Honor is not only a tribute to those who received it, but it is also a testament to the dedication and duty to all who have served the nation. ★

James H. Willbanks, PhD, is an “ACG” advisory board member, the General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History, and Director of the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He is the author of several books on the Vietnam War, including “Abandoning Vietnam,” “The Battle of An Loc” and “The Tet Offensive: A Concise History.” He is also the editor of “America’s Heroes: Medal of Honor Recipients From the Civil War to Afghanistan.”

FROM LEFT: ROBERT WALES, AP PHOTO/RUTH FRENSON

medal than be president of the United States.”



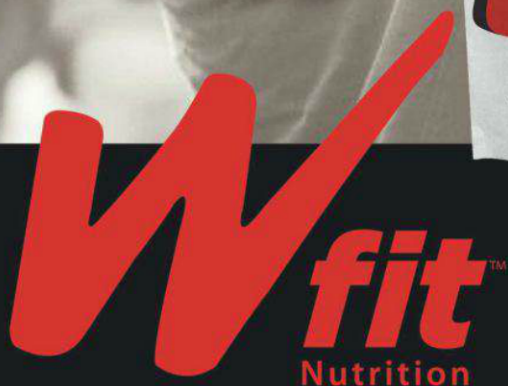
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

There are currently 80 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. Four of these are from the war in Afghanistan.



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COMBAT!

Italian Attack at Bir Hakeim, 1942

Armchair General® challenges YOU to lead a Fiat M13/40 tank and its crew against French-held trenches in the Libyan desert.

GREGORY PROCH



54

YOU COMMAND

British Rifle Brigade in World War I, 1915

62

YOU COMMAND SOLUTION

Confederate Guerrilla Attack, 1863

66

WHAT NEXT, GENERAL?

Hooker at Chancellorsville, 1863

Choose the correct tactical plan for an Italian tank crew attacking French defenders in North Africa.

You are Lieutenant Tomasio LoPresti, commander of a Fiat M13/40 tank and three-man crew of 132d Armored Regiment, Italian Ariete Division, fighting in North Africa. Yesterday, May 26, 1942, an Axis military force consisting of your division, other Italian units and the German Afrika Korps, under the overall command of German General Erwin Rommel, launched a new offensive. Rommel's plan is to defeat 1st Free French Division forces supported by British and Commonwealth troops near Bir Hakeim and then press on to capture the important fortress city of Tobruk.

At 9:30 a.m. today, your regiment and 8th Bersaglieri (Infantry) Regiment moved forward to attack the French defenses

TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m.,
May 27, 1942
LOCATION: Near
Bir Hakeim, Libyan
desert, North Africa
MISSION: Attack enemy
positions defending the
approaches to Tobruk
UNIT: Tank, commander
and three-man crew in
Italian Ariete Division
ENEMY: 80-100 1st
Free French Division
troops defending
from a trench line

at Bir Hakeim. As Ariete Division units advanced across the open desert, an enemy artillery barrage caught 8th Bersaglieri troops still riding in their truck transports. Heavy fire forced the unarmored vehicles to withdraw temporarily, resulting in the tanks moving far ahead of their supporting infantry. In addition, the barrage caused the tanks to disperse over a wide area.

Now, an hour after your journey began, your tank arrives at the French-held trenches near Bir Hakeim. The trench line in your sector is centered on the ruins of an old abandoned fort. Although you do not observe any heavy weapons or anti-tank guns, you estimate that approximately 80-100 French infantrymen armed with rifles and a few light machine guns are in the immediate area. Based on previous experience, you assume that mines are buried in front of the trenches. However, you have no way to know if they are anti-tank mines or merely anti-personnel mines, which pose less danger to tanks and crewmen.

Rommel has repeatedly stressed that his units must boldly press their attacks to maintain the momentum of the overall offensive. But you are concerned that your infantry support has not yet arrived and the regiment's other tanks are still scattered across the desert.

As you contemplate the tactical situation, your tank driver asks, "Lieutenant, should I proceed? I think we can run right over these Frenchies since I see only rifles and machine guns against our armor."

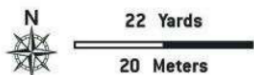
WHAT IS YOUR DECISION, LIEUTENANT LOPRESTI?

Turn the page and listen in as LoPresti issues his orders.

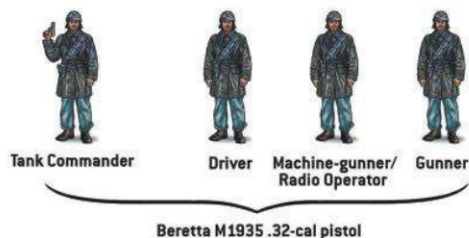
Entrenched French Defenders



Italian Attack at Bir Hakeim, 1942



Lt. LoPresti



Beretta M1935 .32-cal pistol

Italian M13/40 Tank



Fiat-Ansaldo M13/40

13.5 tons
47 mm main gun
Four 8 mm Breda Machine Guns

Tactically, desert warfare presents unique challenges to both sides.



Tanks and vehicles of the Italian Ariete Division advance across the North African desert.

ASSESSMENT OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION

The battle for North Africa – Axis German and Italian forces versus Allied British, Commonwealth and Free French forces – has seesawed back and forth across the desert since 1940. By 1942, both sides have learned hard lessons in the parameters of deadly desert warfare. Harsh conditions make the fighting especially daunting and take a toll on soldiers, weapons and vehicles alike. Temperatures range from one extreme to the other (sweltering in daytime, freezing at night), wind-driven sand chokes engines and fouls weapons, ever-present swarms of flies make life miserable for troops, and supplies (particularly water and ammunition) must be transported over great distances.

Tactically, desert warfare presents unique challenges to both sides. The lack of cover puts a premium on executing effective maneuvers to avoid enemy strongpoints, and the vast distances make it difficult for forces to secure their flanks against envelopment. Typically, defenders

emplace minefields in front of their positions and employ artillery to disrupt attacking forces. The speed, mobility and armor of tanks make them vital weapons in desert warfare; however, they must avoid being drawn into well-prepared anti-tank gun positions where they can be trapped and knocked out one by one.

The French defenses you face do not appear particularly formidable, as they consist of a single trench line manned by enemy infantrymen with no heavy weapons in sight. Your tank's armor is invulnerable to small arms and light machine-gun fire, and your 47 mm main tank gun appears to be the heaviest weapon present.

POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION

You see two options for proceeding with the attack in your sector, yet both entail some risk.

The first course of action is to attack at once without waiting for your infantry support to catch up. This plan fits with Rommel's directive, as it boldly maintains the offensive's momentum by

striking the trench line before the enemy can bring up heavy weapons or call in artillery strikes. Since your tank's armor is impervious to small arms fire, you could quickly overrun the trench line and likely send the enemy infantrymen into full retreat. However, you could also detonate an anti-tank mine and immobilize your tank, or the enemy could have an anti-tank gun hidden and waiting to knock out your vehicle.

The second option is to delay the attack until your infantry support arrives, since tanks and infantrymen operate best when providing mutual support. The infantrymen can clear a path through the minefield and prevent the enemy soldiers from getting close enough to immobilize your tank with grenades or im-

proved explosives. The supporting infantrymen can also *occupy* the seized position – which your tank cannot do by itself – and defend it against any attempts at a counterattack. This plan, however, may give the Allied forces time to reinforce their defenses, call in artillery fire, or move up heavy weapons that could defeat your tank-infantry attack.

TANK COMMANDER'S ORDERS

In response to your driver's question, you yell, "Do not attack! We will wait until the infantrymen have arrived and then launch a combined tank-infantry assault. The threat of anti-tank mines and the possibility of anti-tank guns pose too great a risk for us to go it alone. When we launch our attack, we must strike with the strongest force we can muster.

"Reverse 200 meters! From there, we will soften up the Frenchies with fire from our main gun while we await the Bersaglieri." ★

Jerry D. Morelock, PhD, "Armchair General" Editor in Chief.

HISTORICAL NOTE: At 9:30 a.m. on May 27, 1942, the Italian Ariete Division (132d Armored Regiment and 8th Bersaglieri Regiment) attacked 1st Free French Division defenders at Bir Hakeim. A French artillery barrage soon forced the Bersaglieri (riding in unarmored trucks) to retreat; but despite losing infantry support, the division's tanks continued the attack. After many of the tanks were lost in a minefield, only six Italian tanks penetrated French lines. All were destroyed by anti-tank guns and artillery. The Ariete Division attempted a flanking attack but lost 32 of its remaining 33 tanks and was forced to retreat. Rommel, however, defeated British and Commonwealth forces north of Bir Hakeim, opening the way for his army to besiege and eventually capture Tobruk on June 21, 1942.



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A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of four British soldiers in World War I uniforms, including helmets and carrying equipment, walking across a dark, uneven terrain. The background is a dramatic sky with large, billowing clouds, suggesting a night or dawn setting. The soldiers are positioned in a line, moving from left to right.

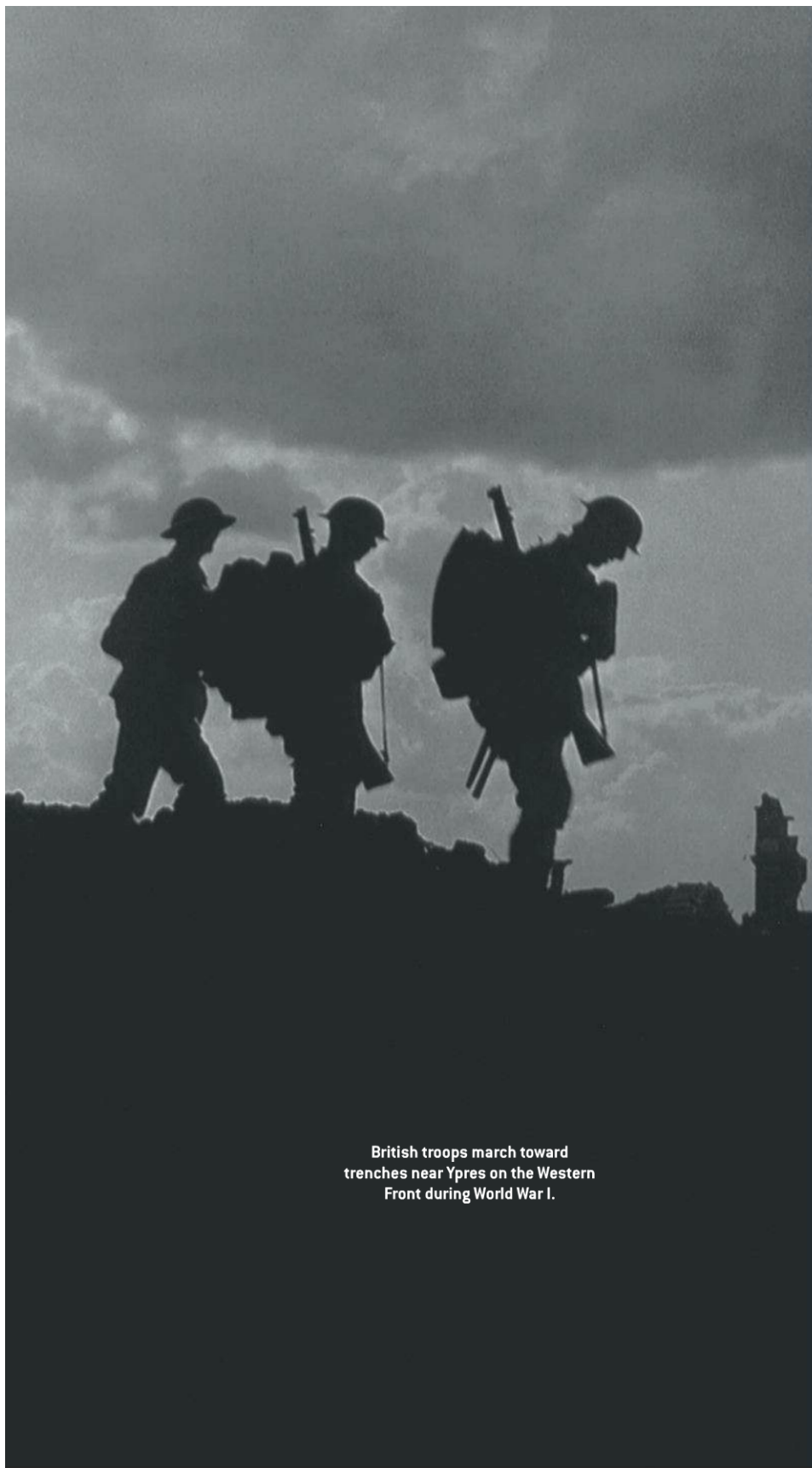
INTERACTIVE

YOU COMMAND

British Rifle Brigade **in World War I, 1915**

YOU lead a battalion of British infantrymen in a daring night attack
against German defenders in the Ypres Salient.

BY ANDREW H. HERSHEY



British troops march toward
trenches near Ypres on the Western
Front during World War I.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM © 2014

The Great War that broke out in Europe in August 1914 began as a “war of movement.” German armies swept into Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France, pushing back Belgian, French and British defenders. Yet the seemingly unstoppable tide of German troops was brought to an abrupt halt at the September 5-12, 1914, Battle of the Marne, hailed by French leaders as the “Miracle of the Marne.” Armies on both sides began to dig in.

For the next two months, the belligerents engaged in a “race to the sea,” creating an extended line of trenches anchored on the North Sea coast near Nieuport, Belgium, and eventually running hundreds of miles south and east to the Swiss border. By 1915, as both sides strengthened and improved their trench lines, the war of movement degenerated into the bloody stalemate of trench warfare. With no exposed enemy flanks to maneuver against, the fighting was dominated by costly frontal attacks in which thousands of soldiers were killed by artillery and machine-gun fire for the gain of only a few hundred yards – if the attacks succeeded at all.

Yet even seemingly small gains could be extremely important to ensuring that front-line positions remained strong enough to prevent an enemy breakthrough or to serve as vital launching points from which to assault enemy trenches. When one side lost a key position in an enemy attack, it typically organized and launched a rapid counterattack to attempt to recapture the position before the opposing side could solidify its defenses there or use it to facilitate further attacks.

Armchair General® takes you back to the night of March 14-15, 1915, in the southern portion of the Ypres Salient in Belgium, where

YOU ARE IN COMMAND!

Armchair General® challenges **YOU** to take command of this historical battle. Here's how to get in on the action: **READ** the article carefully. **DEVELOP** your own solution to this tactical dilemma. **RECORD** your solution on the CDG map and form on pages 59 and 60. **SEND** to *Armchair General* by April 26, 2013.

Winning solutions will be announced in the September 2013 issue. However, those eager to read the historical outcome and analysis can log on to armchairgeneral.com/cdg after April 29, 2013.

you will play the role of British Colonel George Handcock Thesiger, commander of 4th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade. Your mission is to lead your infantrymen to recapture key positions at Saint Eloi taken several hours ago, just before dark, in a German attack. The loss of this vital high ground in an otherwise generally flat region is a heavy blow to British defenders. Your men must quickly retake the Saint Eloi positions to re-establish a solid defense and prevent further German attacks from collapsing the British line in the salient's southern sector.

YPRES SALIENT

In the sector of the Allied front line held by British forces, the focus of combat in early 1915 is the Ypres Salient. (See Ypres Salient map, p. 57.) Formed in late 1914 as British and German forces jockeyed for position during the "race to the sea," the salient is a 10-mile-wide, 6-mile-deep eastward bulge in the front line centered on the town of Ypres, Belgium. The terrain is mostly flat and open, but a few scattered hills and small rises (generally 40-60 feet high) provide unobstructed visibility over great distances.

These high points offer significant advantages: they make defensive lines stronger; artillery observers positioned there can direct accurate fire onto opposing trenches; and attacks have a greater chance to succeed when supported by machine guns, mortars and artillery observers located on higher terrain. For these reasons, the fighting in the Ypres Salient has been dominated by each side's attempts to seize and hold the high ground.

Saint Eloi, located near the southern shoulder of the salient, is one of the key points. Sitting atop a rise of about 50 feet, this small village consists of a few stone houses clustered around an intersection whose roads are important routes for moving troops, vehicles, weapons and supplies in this section of the salient. Therefore whoever occupies Saint Eloi also controls the area's road network.

Immediately south of the village is another dominant terrain feature called "the Mound," a 75-foot-high conical hill created by piled-up debris from a local brickyard. The Mound's summit offers artillery observers excellent long-range visibility. Extending east and west from the Mound is a line of secondary trenches, but since they are not intended as main front-line trenches, they are not as heavily fortified as the armies' principal defensive positions.

At 5 p.m. today, March 14, German troops of 23d Royal Bavarian Infantry Regiment



ABOVE: Col. George Handcock Thesiger, commander of British 4th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade. British defenses in the southern sector of the Ypres Salient hinge on the success of Thesiger's night counterattack.

BELOW: A British sentry uses a trench periscope to observe German positions near Ploegsteert Wood in the Ypres Salient.



launched an attack aimed at Saint Eloi. After exploding a huge underground mine beneath British positions, the Germans broke through the British main front-line trench, moved 400 yards north, seized Saint Eloi and the Mound, and occupied the secondary trench line. The strength of the attacking German force appears to be about a battalion (800-900) of soldiers armed with M98 bolt-action rifles, hand grenades and machine guns, supported by mortars and artillery.

NIGHT ATTACK

Given the prominent location of Saint Eloi, taking it back from the Germans as quickly as possible is of vital importance. If the village remains in German hands, British defenses in the entire southern sector could collapse. Thus shortly after Saint Eloi fell to the enemy, your battalion received the mission to counterattack and recapture it. Since darkness has already fallen, you will lead a night attack.

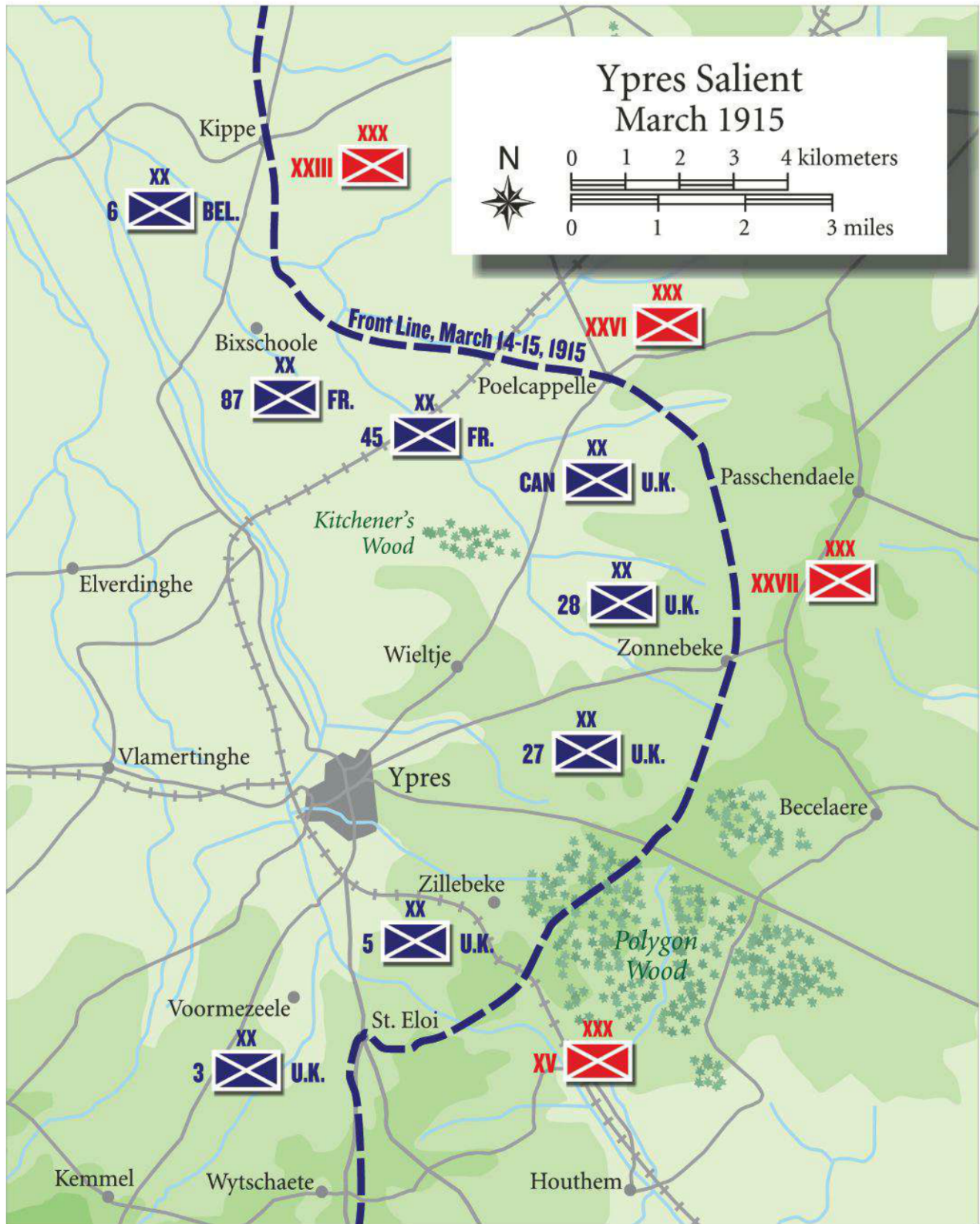
Your unit, 4th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade, is now in a reserve position near Voormezele, just northwest of Saint Eloi. Organized in four infantry companies (A, B, C and D) of about 200 men each, your 850 soldiers are armed with No. 1 MkIII Lee-Enfield bolt-action rifles. All of your riflemen are highly trained in delivering rapid and accurate fire from their Lee-Enfields.

Since the British army does not yet issue hand grenades, your soldiers have improvised with "jam tin bombs." These makeshift bombs are made of cast-off ration tins filled with explosives and scrap metal ignited by a lit fuse, yet they are generally effective – and vital weapons – in trench fighting. Unfortunately your unit does not possess machine guns, nor does it have the support of mortars or artillery. Your riflemen must rely on speed, surprise and cover of darkness to make their attack a success.

You have gathered your company commanders and the battalion staff at your command post to brief them on the plans you are considering for this night counterattack. Since you must strike the Germans as soon as possible, you immediately commence your briefing.

RIGHT: Formed in late 1914 as both sides began digging in for trench warfare, the 10-mile-wide Ypres Salient juts six miles eastward into German-held Belgium. However, the successful March 14, 1915, German attack that captured Saint Eloi threatens to collapse the entire British line in the salient's southern sector.

TOP: ARCHIVE GENERAL ARCHIVES; BOTTOM: IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM Q 50687





1915. A British soldier mans breastworks north of Ploegsteert Wood in the Ypres Salient.

"Chaps," you begin, "you all know the situation and are aware that higher headquarters has ordered us to set it right by going out tonight and recapturing the Saint Eloi positions. I will now brief you on three possible courses of action I have developed for our counterattack against the Germans. Afterward, I'd like to hear any feedback or suggestions you might have."

Course of Action One: BATTALION ATTACK

"The first option I'm considering," you explain, "is to go right at the enemy down the Voormezele-Saint Eloi road with the full battalion. A and B companies will be in the lead, followed closely by C and D companies. Our objective will be to seize the village and its crossroads and then press on to capture the Mound. If we are successful, this will split the enemy defenses and force the Germans to retreat."

Lieutenant Stopford-Sackville, A Company's commander, replies, "Colonel, by running the entire battalion up the road to Saint Eloi, I fear we may be giving the Germans one massive target for their machine guns in the secondary trenches east and west of the vil-

lage – not to mention their artillery and mortars. They can hardly miss such a large target, and if their fire halts our lead companies, our following ones will be trapped on the road."

Major Harrington, B Company's commander, disagrees. "Lieutenant, darkness will make it difficult or impossible for the enemy machine-gunners and artillery forward observers to see our battalion in time to concentrate their fire on us before we are on top of them. This plan capitalizes on speed and surprise; moreover, by attacking with the entire battalion, we have the advantage of mass."

Course of Action Two: FRONT AND FLANK ATTACK

"My next course of action," you continue, "is to hit the Germans from the front and side simultaneously. A and C companies will attack down the Voormezele-Saint Eloi road to overrun the village, while D Company assaults and clears the secondary trench on the enemy's west flank. A and C companies will then press on to the Mound and hit it from the front, while D Company follows and attacks the Mound's flank. B Company will remain in reserve to reinforce these attacks as necessary."

Captain Mostyn-Pryce, D Company's commander, looks concerned. "Colonel," he says, "although I realize that speed, surprise and darkness will help my riflemen in their flank attack, we will still face an unknown number of entrenched German troops backed up by machine guns. I have great confidence in my lads, but I wonder if one company is sufficient to capture and clear the trench line?"

"Captain," interjects Major Harrington, "if your attack stalls, my B Company can quickly reinforce it, and then together we'll clear the trench line and move against the Mound. By keeping a company in reserve, this plan gives the battalion the flexibility to react to any difficulties encountered by the front or flank attacks."

Course of Action Three: DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT

"My final plan," you conclude, "is to attack both flanks at the same time in a double envelopment of the entire enemy-held position. A and C companies will move north of Saint Eloi, skirting the high ground upon which the village sits, and then attack and clear the enemy trench line east of the Mound."

BRITISH RIFLE BRIGADE IN WORLD WAR I, 1915

READER SOLUTION

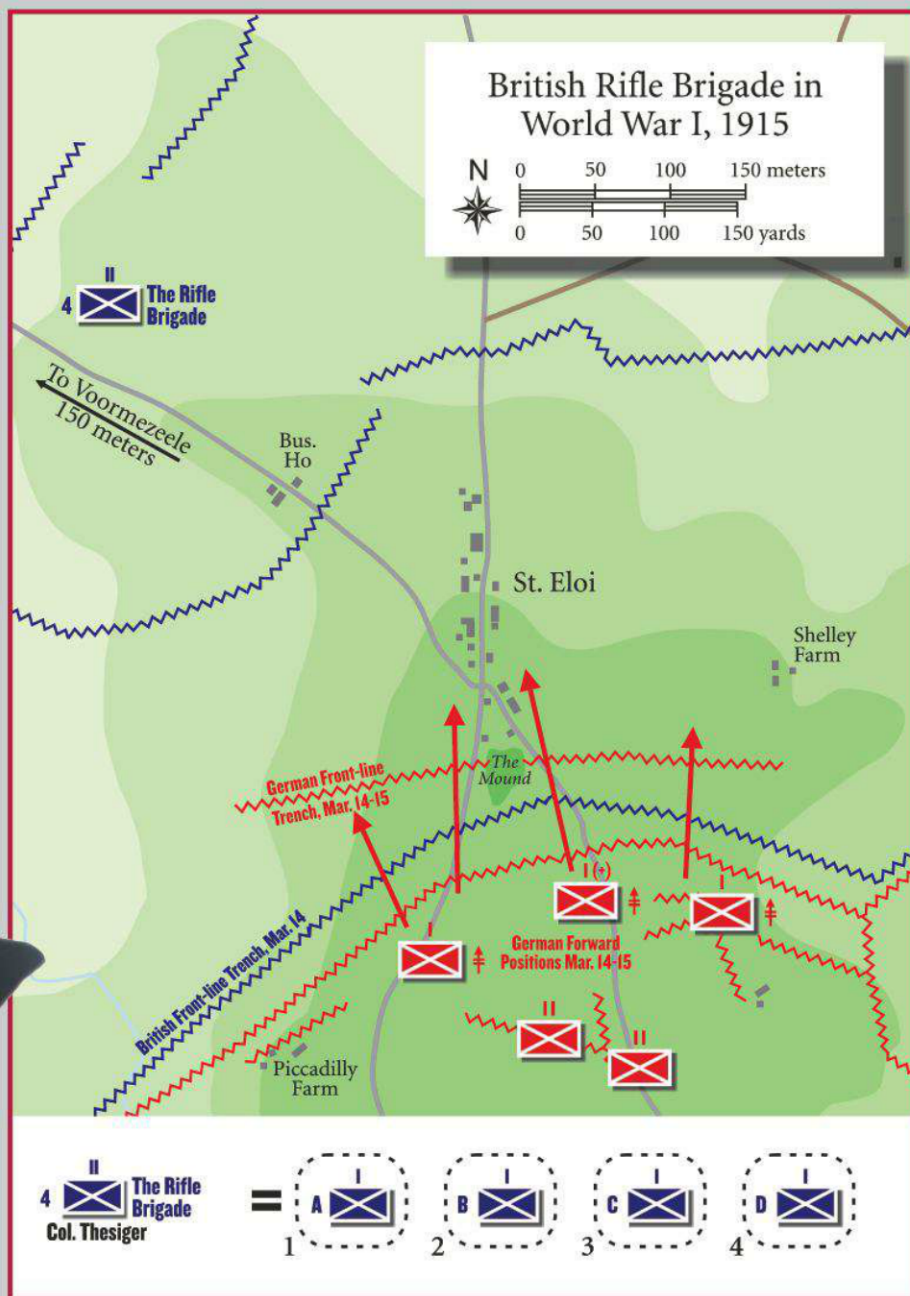
Commander, you have various options to consider for this mission. Check the box next to the course of action you choose and draw your solution on the map. Explain your solution in the space provided (200 words max). You can also download a PDF of the CDG map at www.armchairgeneral.com/cdg.

☐ **COA 1: BATTALION ATTACK**
Launch the battalion's four companies in a single, powerful attack.

☐ **COA 2: FRONT AND FLANK ATTACK**
Two companies attack frontally while one company strikes the left flank.

☐ **COA 3: DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT**
Two companies attack the east flank and two strike the west flank in a pincer maneuver.

☐ **OTHER COA:**
You have an alternative course of action in mind.





YOU COMMAND

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[CDG] #56

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IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: Detach and mail your completed Reader Solution to *Armchair General*, CDG #56, 2060 E. Avenida de los Arboles #373, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Or email your solution to cdg@armchairgeneral.com or fax it to (805) 293-8790. You can also download a PDF of the CDG map at www.armchairgeneral.com/cdg.

To be considered for publication, your solution must be received by April 26, 2013. Winning solutions will be printed in the September 2013 issue. Winners will each receive free *ACG* apparel.

Your concept of the operation (200 words max):

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The Rifle Brigade

The Rifle Brigade was established in the British army in 1802 as 95th Rifle Regiment during the Napoleonic Wars. Its men carried Baker rifles, which were much more accurate than the era's smoothbore muskets, and they wore green uniforms instead of the army's standard red coats. Soldiers in 95th Rifle Regiment were expert light infantrymen who gained widespread fame for their accurately delivered rifle fire and effective "open order" tactics that required individual riflemen to exercise great initiative and daring – qualities that became hallmarks of the unit.

In 1816, 95th Rifle Regiment was redesignated the Rifle Brigade. The brigade boasted the great honor of having the Duke of Wellington – England's most famous soldier of the 19th century – serve as its "colonel in chief" (essentially a reg-

iment's patron) from 1820 until his death in 1852. The unit fought in the 1854-56 Crimean War, including the battles of Alma and Inkerman and the siege of Sevastopol. During that war, eight members of the Rifle Brigade were awarded Victoria

Crosses, the most of any unit in the British army.

During World War I, the Rifle Brigade fielded 28 battalions that served in combat on the Western Front and in Macedonia.

When the war began in August 1914, Colonel George Handcock Thesiger's 4th Battalion was on garrison duty at Dagshai in north-central India. His unit was recalled to Britain in November 1914 and after a brief training period left for France in late December. Three

months later, Thesiger and 4th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade, were assigned to the Ypres Salient sector of the front.



The cap badge of the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) during World War I, in use from 1910-37.



March 1915. British soldiers man a trench three miles southeast of Ypres. Controlling the high ground is critical in this region of rolling flatland.

Meanwhile, B and D companies will attack and clear the trench line to the west. Once we capture both trench lines, the Germans will find their positions at Saint Eloi and the Mound untenable. They will have no choice but to retreat."

Major King, your battalion second in command, adds his thoughts. "Colonel, seizing both trench lines may put the Germans in an untenable position, but it could just as likely leave our battalion in an equally vulnerable situation. Our two companies to the east will be separated from and have no direct contact with our two companies to the west. Therefore the enemy will occupy a possibly strong central position between the main elements of our split battalion. With no way to reinforce either element, we could be inviting the Germans to defeat our battalion in detail should they mass against either force."

Captain Selby-Smith, C Company's commander, offers his input. "Major, I think this plan gives the Germans the worst of it. Our two elements will be separated only *if* they don't press on and take the Mound, but surely this plan implies that they will do just that and thereby link up. Once the companies have captured and cleared the trenches, we can attack the Mound from two directions at once, virtually ensuring we take the dominating high ground. Any Germans left at Saint Eloi will then be 'in the bag' as our prisoners."

Having heard your subordinates' comments on the three courses of action, you send the commanders back to prepare their units for the imminent night attack. "Gentlemen," you announce as they depart your command post, "I will make my decision and issue battalion orders forthwith. Good luck!"

Regardless of which plan you choose, you are confident your riflemen will gallantly uphold the honor of the Rifle Brigade.

What is your decision, Colonel Thesiger? ★

Andrew H. Hershey holds a doctorate in medieval history from the University of London. He contributes to the "USMC Gazette" and is a four-time winner of its Tactical Decision Game design contests. He also designs World War II tactical-level wargames for *Heat of Battle* and *Le Franc Tireur*.

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Confederate Guerrilla Attack, 1863

Historical outcome and winning Reader Solutions to CDG #54, January 2013 issue.

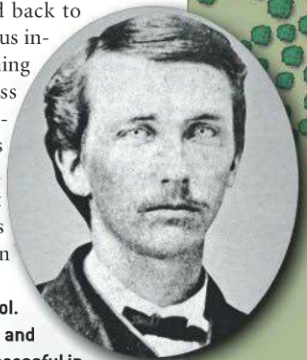
The January 2013 issue of *Armchair General*® presented the Combat Decision Game “Confederate Guerrilla Attack, 1863.” This CDG placed readers in the role of Confederate Colonel William C. Quantrill, commander of a 400-man guerrilla cavalry force during the Civil War. Quantrill’s mission October 6, 1863, was to develop a plan to lead his irregular cavalrymen against two Union forces near Fort Blair, Kan.

The guerrilla war that raged in the border states of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and western Virginia was a bitter “no quarter” struggle of hit-and-run raids by the guerrillas and ruthless Union reprisals against civilians suspected of aiding them. Nowhere was Civil War guerrilla warfare more brutal than in the Kansas-Missouri border area, where bloody clashes between pro-Northern forces and pro-Southern forces dated back to 1854. The two most infamous incidents, which became defining examples of this merciless border region conflict, occurred in 1863: Quantrill’s murderous August 21 raid on Lawrence, Kan., that killed 180-200 of the town’s men and boys; and Union

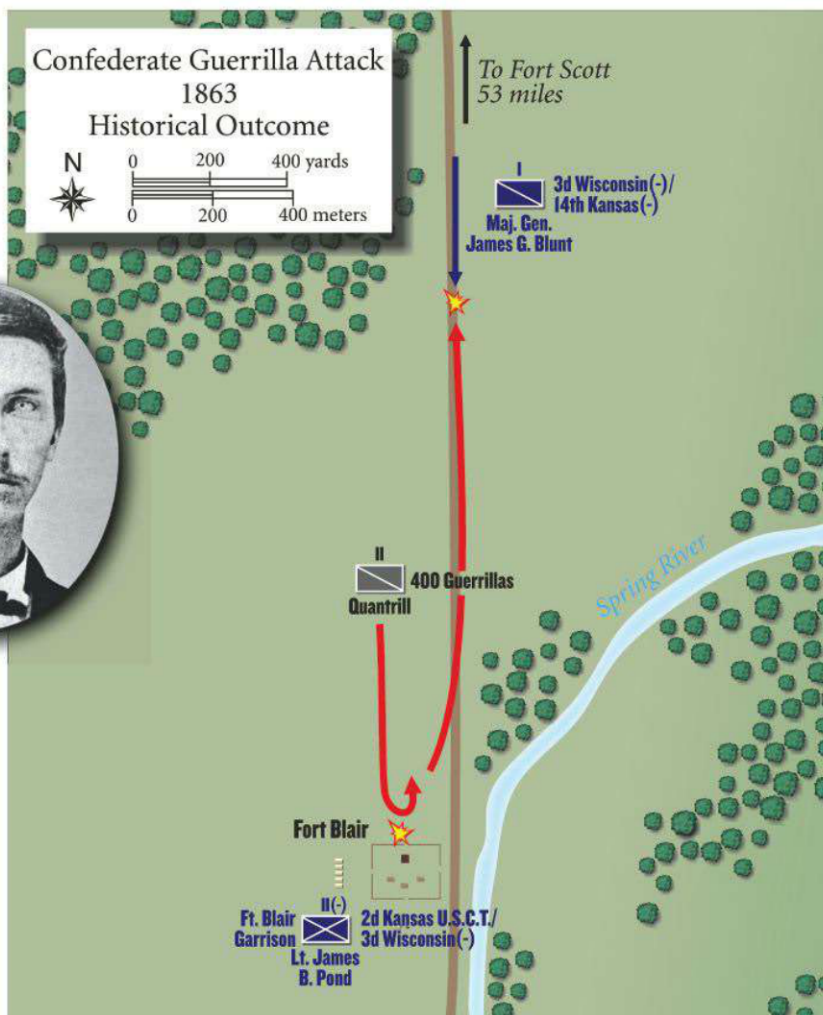
General Thomas Ewing’s notorious August 25 “Order No. 11” that forcibly and with extreme cruelty removed all civilians from five Missouri counties and left the region a barren “burnt district” for decades.

In early October 1863, after increased Union Army operations conducted in the wake of the Lawrence raid made the border region “too hot” for Confederate guerrillas, Quantrill decided to lead his 400 men 200

miles south to Texas to safe winter quarters. On October 6, while traveling through southeastern Kansas, his command unexpectedly came upon Fort Blair, a recently constructed Union fortification with a 155-man garrison backed by a 12-pounder howitzer. Adding to Quantrill’s predicament, about 100 Union cavalrymen were approaching the fort as they escorted Major General James G. Blunt from Fort Scott, Kan., to Fort Smith, Ark.

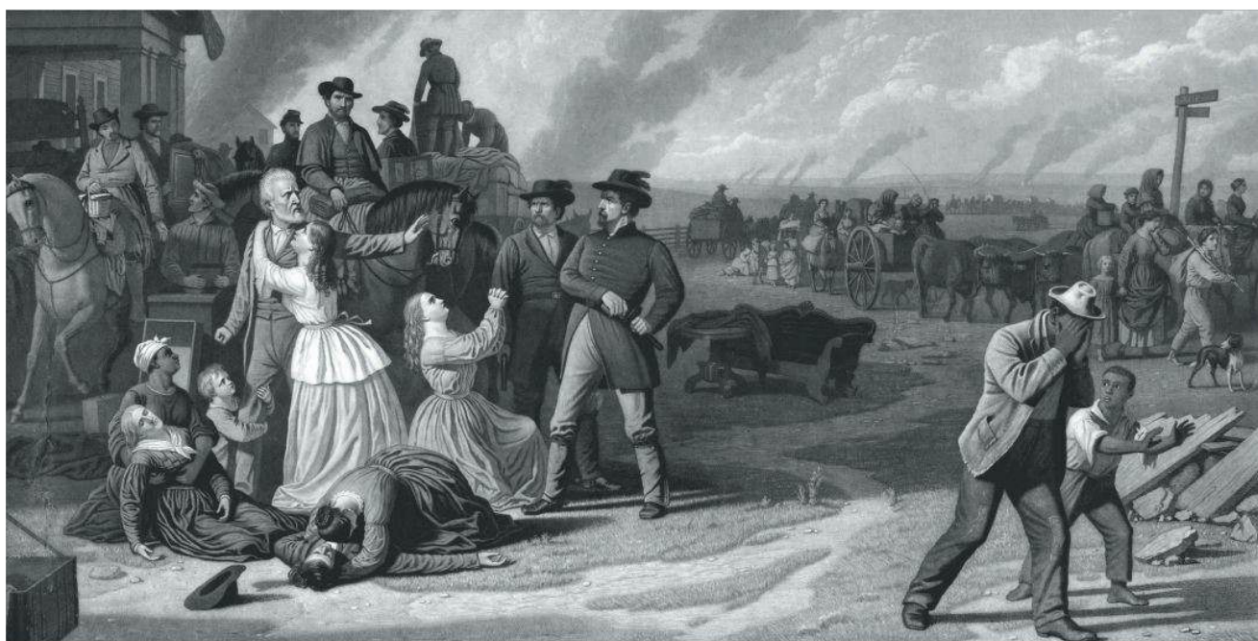


LEFT: Although Confederate Col. William C. Quantrill (pictured) and his 400 guerrillas were unsuccessful in their attack against Fort Blair, they still managed to kill 85 Union Soldiers escorting Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt on the road north of the fort. **RIGHT:** On October 6, 1863, Col. William C. Quantrill led his entire command in a surprise attack against the Union garrison at Fort Blair, Kan., and then turned his men north and ambushed Maj. Gen. James G. Blunt’s escort force [COURSE OF ACTION TWO: ONE ATTACK FORCE]. Although the fort’s howitzer repulsed the lightly armed Confederate guerrillas, Quantrill’s men virtually wiped out Blunt’s force, and the general was one of the few Union Soldiers to escape.



LEFT: © PRIVATE COLLECTION; PETER NEWARK/AMERICAN PICTURES/BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY INTERNATIONAL; RIGHT: PETERHO CARTOGRAPHY

Blunt initially mistook the Confederates for Union troops. It was a costly mistake.



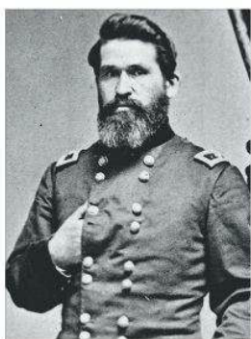
HISTORICAL OUTCOME

Quantrill chose to attack Fort Blair immediately with his entire command (**COURSE OF ACTION TWO: ONE ATTACK FORCE**). At noon on October 6, his 400 mounted guerrillas thundered down upon the unsuspecting Union garrison, catching most of the defenders unarmed and eating lunch at the cooking camp south of the fort's ramparts. Yet the garrison commander, Lieutenant James B. Pond, who was cut off in the tent camp west of the fort when the surprise attack began, reacted swiftly and decisively, ordering his men to race through the charging Confederates and into the fort. Although Quantrill's guerrillas killed six of Pond's men and injured 10 others as they ran toward the fort, most of the garrison's Soldiers managed to get behind the ramparts, retrieve their weapons and quickly place the 12-pounder howitzer into action. Firing rifles, carbines and the howitzer, they repulsed Quantrill's guerrillas armed only with pistols, killing or wounding 20-30 of them.

The Battle of Fort Blair, however, was far from over. As

This painting by George Caleb Bingham depicts families being driven out of one of the Missouri border counties after Union Brig. Gen. Thomas Ewing issued "Order No. 11" in response to Col. Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kan., in 1863.

Quantrill's Confederates withdrew, they turned on Blunt and his escort traveling on the road north of the fort. Since some of the



Gen. James G. Blunt was unable to mount a successful defense against Col.

Quantrill's guerrillas and lost many of his men in the ensuing fight. Blunt was relieved of command for the incident but later redeemed his reputation at the Battle of Westport, Mo.

guerrillas were wearing blue uniform coats (guerrillas frequently wore captured Union uniforms, often out of necessity when their clothes needed replacing but also sometimes as a deception measure), Blunt initially mistook the Confederates for Union troops from Fort Blair. It was a costly mistake. When Blunt belatedly realized his error, his effort to hastily form a defensive line proved woefully ineffective. The guerrillas quickly rode down the small Union force, killing 85 men and wounding eight. Only Blunt and perhaps 15 other Union Soldiers mounted on fast horses managed to escape. Thus, although the Union force had repulsed Quantrill's men at

the fort, the Battle of Fort Blair was a stunning Confederate victory for the guerrillas.

During the rest of the Civil War, Quantrill continued to lead Confederate guerrilla bands. He was wounded May 10, 1865, during a Union ambush and died as a result of his injuries June 6 in Louisville, Ky. Of Quantrill's principal guerrilla lieutenants, only Dave Poole survived the war, dying many years later in 1899. George Todd and William "Bloody Bill" Anderson were both killed in 1864.

Lieutenant Pond received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle and finished the war as a major. He died in 1903 after a successful career as a lecture tour manager (his clients included Mark Twain, Winston Churchill and explorer Henry Morton Stanley).

General Blunt was briefly relieved of command after the Fort Blair debacle but was later reinstated. He redeemed his sullied reputation in a Union victory over General Sterling Price's Confederates at the October 23, 1864, Battle of Westport, Mo. Blunt died in 1881.

READER SOLUTIONS

ACG judges based their selections for winning Reader Solutions and those receiving honorable mention on submissions that chose **COURSE OF ACTION TWO: ONE ATTACK FORCE**, or those whose explanations demonstrated a solid understanding of the key principles of a

AFTER ACTION REPORT Key Principles for a Civil War Guerrilla Attack

DECEPTION: Keep forces hidden or in disguise until ready to attack.

SURPRISE: Strike suddenly and without warning to shock and confuse the enemy.

SPEED: Keep the enemy off balance through superior mobility and horsemanship.

CONCENTRATION: Mass as many guerrillas as possible against the enemy target.

FIREPOWER: Deliver a blizzard of overwhelming, close-range pistol fire.

VIOLENT EXECUTION: Ruthlessly press the initial charge to inflict maximum damage.

AVOID FORTIFICATIONS: Don't risk failure or high casualties by attacking enemy strongpoints.

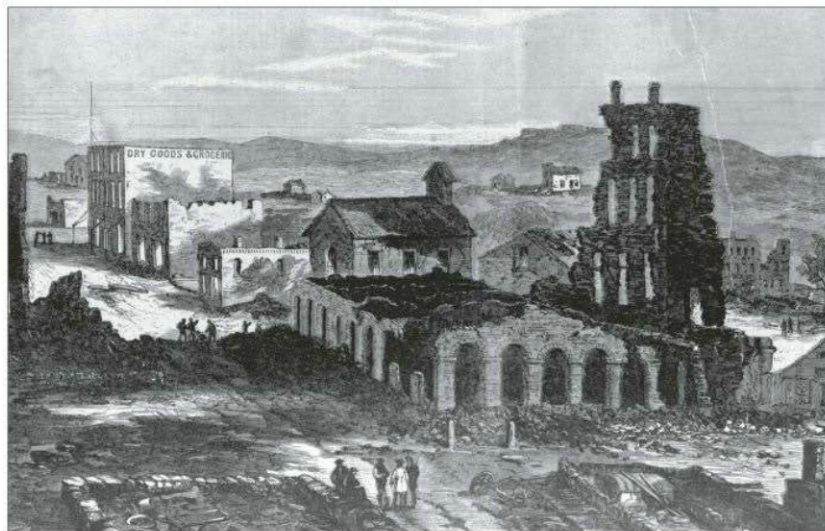
RAPID WITHDRAWAL: Quickly vacate the area to evade enemy pursuit/retaliation.

Civil War guerrilla attack. (See "After Action Report.") Quantrill, by choosing to employ his men as a single force, maximized their numbers, firepower and shock action and facilitated command and control for a more rapid response to the battle's changing tactical situation.

COURSE OF ACTION ONE: TWO ATTACK FORCES fragmented and weakened Quantrill's command, reducing its chances of success against the fort or Blunt's escort. If half the guerrilla force (200 cavalrymen) had targeted the 100-man escort, both of Quantrill's attacks might have been repulsed.

COURSE OF ACTION THREE: DELAYED ASSAULT was the least likely plan to succeed. The combined force of the garrison and Blunt's escort numbered nearly 300 Soldiers, reducing Quantrill's odds to almost 1-to-1 and making any Confederate success unlikely against the reinforced garrison, ramparts and 12-pounder howitzer.

And now for excerpts from the winning Reader Solutions to "Confederate Guerrilla Attack, 1863." *



This September 1863 print from *Harper's Weekly* shows the ruins of buildings in Lawrence, Kan., following the attack by Col. Quantrill and his Confederate raiders.

CLAY B. ELLIS, VIRGINIA: "The Confederates are quick, mobile and can hit hard. The element of surprise is in their favor. At Fort Blair, the Union forces' small arms will fire slower than the Confederates' pistols. The fort must be hit hard and quickly overrun before a defense can be mounted and before the cannon can be used."

BRYAN GOLDBERG, ARIZONA: "COA #2, One Attack Force, best utilizes the military principles of mass and surprise while also taking advantage of the Confederates' great mobility and speed. The howitzer's range of fire will be avoided, and the rest of the fort can be quickly overrun."

ROBERT E. WILLIAMS II, OHIO: "We will attack Fort Blair with one force, a quick powerful jab. Our best opportunity is to use surprise and shock, which rests on our strong suit of hit and run. The objective is to destroy as much as we can outside the fort to allow easier access to the fort's interior."

Thank you to everyone who participated in this CDG. Now turn to page 54 and test your tactical decision-making skills with CDG

#56, "British Rifle Brigade in World War I, 1915." This Western Front battle places you in the role of Colonel George Handcock Thesiger, commander of 4th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade. Your mission is to lead your infantrymen in a nighttime counterattack to recapture positions around Saint Eloi, Belgium, that were lost in the Ypres Salient during a German attack. Use the CDG map and form on pages 59 and 60 to explain your solution and mail, email or fax it to *Armchair General* by April 26, 2013. Winners will be announced in the September 2013 issue, but those eager to read the historical outcome and analysis can log on to armchairgeneral.com/cdg after April 29, 2013. ★

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** For each Combat Decision Game, *Armchair General* typically receives numerous Reader Solutions that have selected the course of action that ACG judges have deemed the best COA for that CDG. However, our judges are required to choose winners and honorable mentions from submissions whose explanations, in the judges' opinion, best reflect an understanding of the principles and key points of the CDG's tactical situation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR "ARMCHAIR GENERALS"! CLAY B. ELLIS, Virginia; BRYAN GOLDBERG, Arizona; ROBERT E. WILLIAMS II, Ohio THEY BEAT OUT SOME TOUGH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION!

HONORABLE MENTION

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CHRIS BROWN, Germany
CRAIG BURTON, Texas
MIKE CHARLES, Canada
MING YU CHIANG, Singapore

ALEX CHIN, Wash.
PIERRE CORBEIL, Canada
DEETLEFS DU TOIT, South Africa
TYLER FRANKLIN, Wis.
TARCISIO FRASCINO FONSECA, Brazil

DONALD K. GILLES, Ariz.
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JOHN KASTANAS, Mo.

CAPT. MARK A. LICHAK, Tenn.
DR. STEVEN MINTZ, Canada
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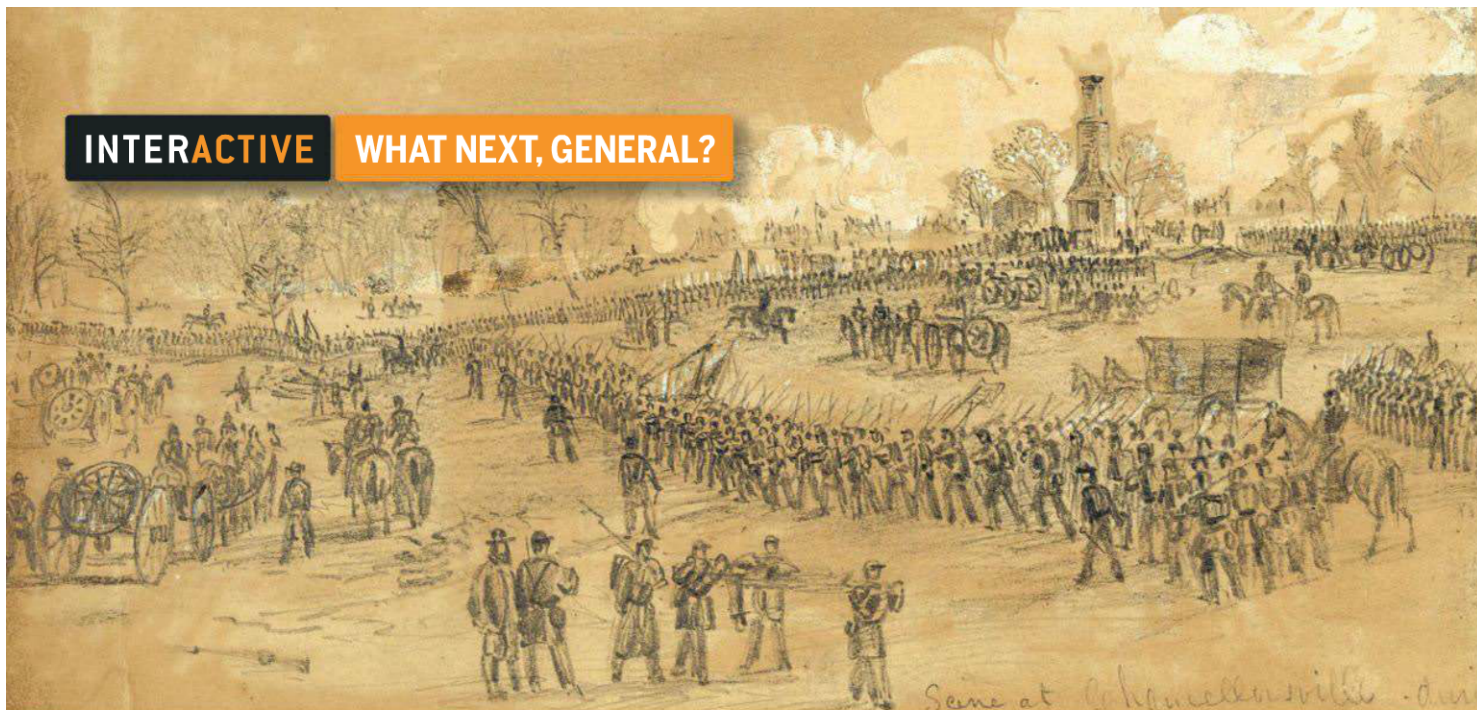
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INTERACTIVE WHAT NEXT, GENERAL?



Hooker at Chancellorsville, 1863

As Major General Joseph Hooker, can YOU defeat General Robert E. Lee and win a stunning Union victory?

BY RICHARD N. ARMSTRONG

It is May 1, 1863, as you assume the role of Major General Joseph Hooker, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac. Known as “Fighting Joe,” you were appointed army commander on January 26 by President Abraham Lincoln in the wake of the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg, Va. (December 11-15, 1862), during which Confederate General Robert E. Lee won yet another victory over the army now under your leadership. Lincoln fervently hopes that you – the fourth general to command the Army of the Potomac – can find a way to beat Lee at last.

After reorganizing and training your army for more than three months, you are confident it is now ready to take on Lee’s outnumbered Confederate Army of Northern Virginia still occupying positions at Fredericksburg. Seeking to avoid the mistake made by previous Union commanders – launching costly frontal attacks against strong Rebel defenses – you have developed a bold strategy to move the main portion of the Army of the Potomac around Lee’s left flank while a part of it holds

the Confederates in place at Fredericksburg.

By midday today, your flanking maneuver appears successful. However, you realize you must not become complacent. The wily Lee has often fought outnumbered, yet he has seldom been outgeneraled. You must be prepared to react immediately to defeat his inevitable countermoves.

THE ROAD TO CHANCELLORSVILLE

When your Army of the Potomac reached the Rappahannock River April 27, Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia occupied a 25-mile stretch of the river, with his largest troop concentration entrenched at or near Fredericksburg. (See Rappahannock Line map, p. 67.) Lee has 53,000 Soldiers in six infantry divisions, plus Major General Jeb Stuart’s cavalry division. With Lieutenant General James Longstreet’s I Corps, less two divisions, remaining detached in southeast Virginia, Lieutenant General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson is Lee’s principal subordinate commander, leading II Corps and the two divisions

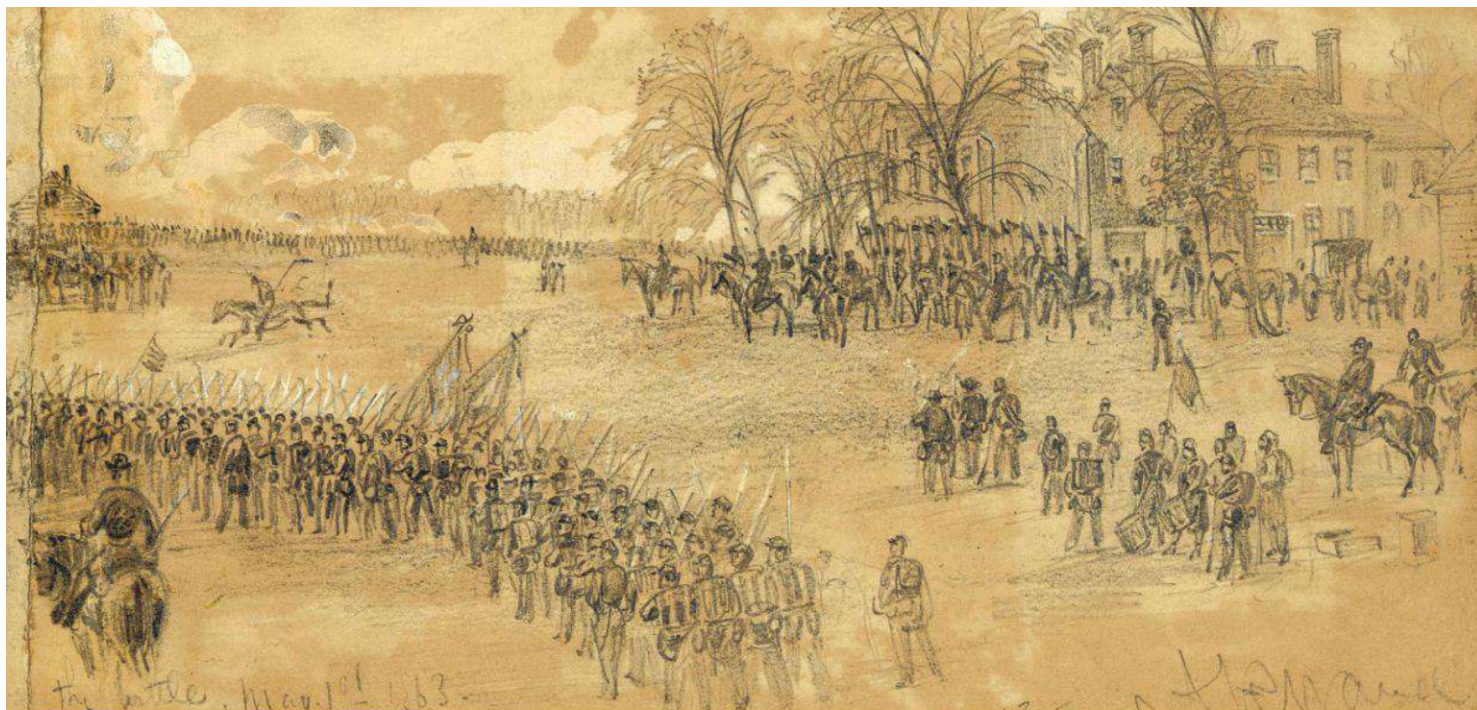
Longstreet left behind at Fredericksburg.

Your 130,000 men outnumber Lee’s Soldiers by over 2-to-1, and your strategy seeks to make the most of this advantage. To mask the turning movement of your main force, you ordered 40,000 Soldiers under Major General John Sedgwick (including his VI Corps, Major General John Reynolds’ I Corps and Major General Daniel Sickles’ III Corps) into position along the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg to hold the Confederates’ attention.

Meanwhile, on April 27 you ordered the wide turning maneuver on Lee’s flank by Major General George Meade’s V Corps, Major General Oliver Howard’s XI Corps and Major General Henry Slocum’s XII Corps. During the night of April 28 and the next morning, the three corps crossed the Rappahannock River, divided into two columns to quickly cross the Rapidan River, and then moved on parallel roads toward Chancellorsville. The force reached Chancellorsville on the afternoon of April 30. That night, Major General Darius Couch’s II Corps finally arrived to join the other three

ABOVE: May 1863. Union forces prepare to advance against the Army of Northern Virginia during the Battle of Chancellorsville. (Illustration by artist Alfred R. Waud.)

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corps and your Army of the Potomac headquarters in bivouac there.

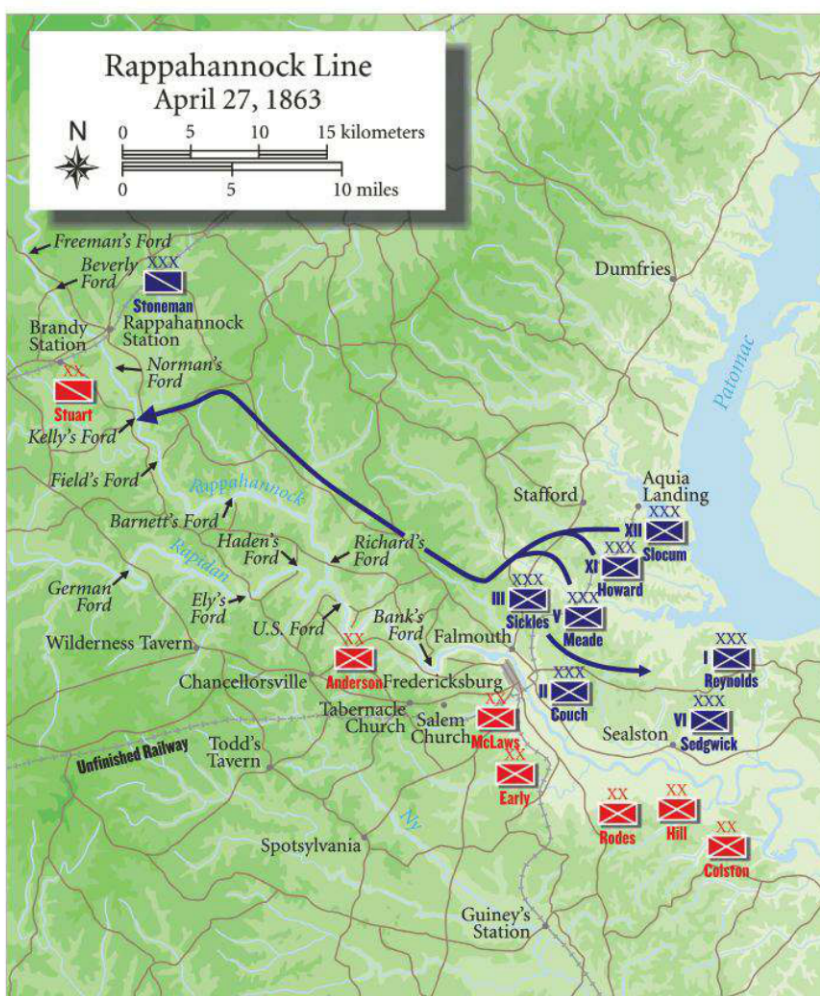
By the night of April 30-May 1, you had successfully positioned 54,000 troops behind the left flank of Lee's entire fortified river line.

LEE REACTS

Chancellorsville is merely a house at a minor crossroads in a densely wooded area known as "the Wilderness." The terrain is so thickly covered with trees and underbrush that fields of fire are blocked and any movement off the few available roads is greatly inhibited. Moreover, visibility in the Wilderness is severely limited. Large armies could be only hundreds of yards apart yet remain unaware of each other's presence.

This morning at 9 a.m., Sickles' III Corps, released from Sedgwick's Fredericksburg force, arrived and took up position near your right flank. With its arrival, you had five infantry corps and a cavalry brigade near Chancellorsville. At 11 a.m., you ordered Meade's V Corps and Slocum's XII Corps to advance east from Chancellorsville while you held in place the remaining three corps and the cavalry brigade.

In a brilliant flanking maneuver, you have led your Army of the Potomac in a wide, westward sweep across the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers to the Wilderness, threatening Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg. On May 1, with Lee's army flanked and his line of communications with Richmond at risk, you must determine your army's next move.



You are worried that the Confederates could use the dense



Halting the Army of the Potomac in its present position and defending in place forces Lee's outnumbered Confederates to launch costly attacks against prepared Union positions. Once Lee's army is weakened, your army can renew its advance and crush the Army of Northern Virginia once and for all.



Pulling back the Union corps to a concentrated position near Chancellorsville provides a defense in depth and prevents the Confederates from massing against exposed units. It also facilitates the launch of powerful counterattacks after Lee's men have exhausted themselves in bloody frontal attacks.

At midday, you began receiving reports that your leading units moving from Chancellorsville were encountering increasingly stiff Confederate resistance. When the sound of cannon fire reached your headquarters, you realized that your forward-most units were meeting much more than merely handfuls of Rebel skirmishers manning outposts. Lee is reacting to your flanking maneuver and moving aggressively in an attempt to counter it.

Now, early afternoon on May 1, you face a critical decision: Given Lee's aggressive reaction, how should your army respond? Although you do not yet have complete knowledge of the developing tactical situation, you consider three possible courses of action.

COURSE OF ACTION ONE: DEFEND IN PLACE. (See COA One map.) Defending in place puts your units in position to inflict high casualties on the Confederates as they attack your army's superior numbers. This plan allows your army to hold the ground it has already won through its flanking maneuver and forward move-

ments, leaving it in position to continue its advance against Lee once his Rebels are weakened by their costly frontal attacks.

COURSE OF ACTION TWO: WITHDRAW AND DEFEND. (See COA Two map.) Pulling back your leading units from their exposed positions to rejoin the corps at Chancellorsville allows your army to concentrate its defenses and prevents the Confederates from massing against these exposed units. This plan facilitates a defense in depth and provides adequate reserves for launching counterattacks against Lee's men after they have been weakened by their attacks against strong Union defenses.

COURSE OF ACTION THREE: ATTACK. (See COA Three map, p. 69.) Attacking the Confederate units as they redeploy from Fredericksburg maintains the momentum your army has gained through its flanking maneuver and prevents Lee from seizing the initiative. Striking his men as they move into the open, outside their Fredericksburg fortifications, puts your army's superior numbers

in position to win a decisive victory.

Lee has reacted to your successful flanking maneuver. Now, you must decide what your countermove will be.

What next, Major General Hooker?

COURSE OF ACTION ONE: DEFEND IN PLACE

Since your leading units have moved through the dense Wilderness and into more open terrain, you decide to defend in place. This will allow Confederate forces to exhaust themselves in costly frontal attacks against Union units possessing good fields of fire for their massed rifles and concentrated artillery.

You order Meade to seize Bank's Ford, since it provides a much closer crossing point for moving units from Sedgwick's force at Fredericksburg and anchors the army's left flank firmly on the Rappahannock. Meanwhile, Meade and Slocum, commanding the forward units, slightly adjust the positions of

Wilderness to move against your right flank unobserved.



Attacking the Army of Northern Virginia as it redeploys from Fredericksburg maintains the momentum of the Union flanking maneuver and prevents Lee's army from seizing the initiative. Superior Union numbers will prove a decisive advantage once the Confederates are vulnerable out in the open.

their flank units to present a continuous forward defensive line across the army's front. To protect Slocum's right flank against a Confederate threat, you direct Sickles to send two divisions to the right rear of XII Corps.

To further boost your forward line, you move several artillery batteries to high ground in a central location with good fields of fire. As a hedge against a Confederate breakthrough, you order two of Couch's II Corps divisions into position behind the massed artillery, prepared to reinforce Meade or Slocum if necessary.

However, you remain concerned about your rear corps in the Wilderness at Chancellorsville. Since both Lee and Jackson have well-earned reputations for acting boldly, you are worried that the Confederates could use the dense Wilderness to move against your right flank unobserved. In particular, you are anxious about XI Corps, as it is your weakest corps and Howard is an inexperienced commander. Thus you send the cavalry brigade

Maj. Gen. Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker, commander of the Union Army of the Potomac, has maneuvered his reorganized army to confront Gen. Robert E. Lee's outnumbered Confederate Army of Northern Virginia near Chancellorsville. A Union success here could end the Civil War.



If Lee can destroy XII Corps, he will have a clear route

to cover Howard's right flank and to provide early warning in the event of an approaching enemy force.

As you refine your troop dispositions during the afternoon, Lee – as expected – launches an attack. Amid Rebel yells, Confederate infantrymen advance across the open terrain toward Slocum's units. Although the Confederates tentatively probe Meade's portion of the line, it is clear that Lee's intent is to turn your forward line's right flank by overrunning Slocum's men. If Lee can destroy XII Corps or force it back into the Wilderness, he will have a clear route to move thousands of troops around your flank to strike your corps near Chancellorsville. Yet your massed artillery batteries with their clear fields of fire wreak havoc among the ranks of the attacking Confederates.

The slaughter is horrific. Within an hour, Lee's attack fails and the survivors retreat. Your right flank line has held – but Lee is far from finished.

From your position near the artillery batteries, you observe fresh Confederate infantry divisions maneuvering north. Clearly, Lee now intends to attack Meade's line on your left. You immediately order Couch to move a division to reinforce Meade's position, and you send a galloper via Bank's Ford with orders for Sedgwick to send Reynolds' corps at once, as well. You hope his I Corps arrives in time.

Expecting a Confederate strike at any moment, you are puzzled when nearly two hours pass before Lee launches his attack against your left. Yet when the offensive finally begins, it delivers a powerful blow to Meade's line. Hitting beyond the range of your massed artillery batteries, the Confederates break through but are momentarily pushed back by Couch's division. They again attack, this time smashing through Couch's men, only to be met and turned back by the lead units of I Corps. Lee's uncharacteristic delay in making his move has allowed Reynolds and his men to arrive.

Feeling confident the battle is now won, you are suddenly amazed to see Confederate units, perhaps 15,000 Rebels, *again* massing to attack. Lee simply refuses to quit.

As the Rebels move into position, it is obvious they intend to attack the center of your



April 29, 1863. Union Soldiers sit entrenched along the west bank of the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg, Va.

forward line. After hitting your flanks, Lee apparently assumes you must have weakened your center. However, he has made a fatal mistake. Not only has your center remained strong, you now quickly reinforce it with reserve units from Couch's third division and Sickles' III Corps. You are certain that no 15,000 men ever arrayed for battle can take your position.

You are proved right. The Confederates' frontal attack on your center collapses under a storm of Union fire. Lee has no choice but to pull back his shattered army and attempt to withdraw toward Richmond. But you do not intend to let the broken Army of Northern Virginia escape. Ordering forward all your corps, including Sedgwick's Fredericksburg force, you intend to trap Lee and his men and finish this war *now*.

COURSE OF ACTION TWO: WITHDRAW AND DEFEND

With visions of the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg weighing heavily on your mind, you firmly resolve not to throw away your army in futile attacks against Confederate positions. Thus you order your leading corps to retreat into the Wilderness to concentrate the army around Chancellorsville. You hope the withdrawal encourages Lee to attack. Let the Confederates waste *their* strength in costly frontal attacks this time.

Your corps commanders are reluctant to give up the ground they have gained and are

concerned about defending in the tangled Wilderness, yet they obey your orders. In the fading sunlight of May 1, your army digs in and cuts timber to build fortified positions. Your line is more than five miles long and faces east and south, the directions from which you expect Lee to attack. You inform Sedgwick that you are suspending the advance and that he is to attack if he thinks he can succeed.

Although you have five corps concentrated around Chancellorsville, you order Reynolds' I Corps to march from Fredericksburg and take up position in the army's rear along the Rappahannock. In particular, you want his men to protect U.S. Ford to ensure your army's line of communications – and possible route of retreat – remains open.

At sunrise on May 2, you ride to inspect your army's positions. From north to south, your defensive line consists of Meade's V Corps, with its flank anchored on the Rappahannock; Couch's II Corps, deployed in an arc southeast of Chancellorsville; and Slocum's XII Corps, with one of Sickles' III Corps divisions on its right. Concerned about Howard's XI Corps – your weakest corps under an inexperienced commander – you leave it well back out of harm's way, west of Chancellorsville.

Although you recognize your right flank could be vulnerable to a Confederate turning maneuver that moves around your flank and attacks your rear, you doubt Lee would take such a risk. His greatly outnumbered troops face strong Union forces on two fronts (your five corps around Chancellorsville and Sedgwick's Fredericksburg force). Not even Lee would be audacious enough to split an inferior force in the face of such formidable odds.

At 8 a.m., Sickles' forward division reports observing a large body of Confederate troops moving southwest across its front. Sickles assumes the Rebels are retreating, and you agree. There seems to be no other explanation for so many Confederate troops moving in that direction. Nevertheless, you send an order to Howard at 9:30 a.m. directing him to ensure that he posts pickets to provide early warning in the unlikely event of a Confederate flank envelopment. Howard acknowledges your order at 10:30 a.m. At midday, Sickles requests per-

to move thousands of troops around your flank.

mission to attack the Confederates moving across his front and you approve. He strikes with one division, and the fighting continues for several hours.

At 5:15 p.m., you suddenly hear rifle and artillery fire erupt in the direction of XI Corps. You soon discover that a powerful Confederate force concealing its movement behind the dense cover of the Wilderness has swept around your right flank and launched a surprise assault on Howard's corps. The Rebel attack scatters XI Corps' panicked Soldiers and then surges through your rear toward Chancellorsville.

You desperately gather troops from four different corps and try to form a new line to halt the Rebel advance. The dense terrain, however, greatly restricts your men's fields of fire, largely negating your advantage in numbers and artillery. By sunset, the Confederate attack has broken XI Corps and rolled up your right flank to a depth of two miles. Yet your army is now in a more compact defensive position and you hold the ground separating Lee's main body from his flank attacking force. Your casualties are heavy, however, and the surprise offensive has battered your troops' morale.

Taking advantage of Lee splitting his army, that night you order Sedgwick to seize Fredericksburg and advance on the enemy's rear at Chancellorsville. The next morning, May 3, Sedgwick attacks, carries the Fredericksburg heights and sends the Confederate covering force in retreat.

Meanwhile, midmorning at Chancellorsville a cannonball hits your headquarters, knocking you out. Although you drift in and out of consciousness, you retain command and order a general withdrawal a mile northward to contract your defenses. This decision, likely made due to a concussion impairing your judgment, is a grave mistake. It gives up key terrain to the Confederates and permits Lee to reunite his army. Moreover, the withdrawal frees Confederate troops to oppose Sedgwick's advance from Fredericksburg.

Despite most of your corps commanders voting to counterattack, you decide to order your army to retreat across the river. Sedgwick, informed of your withdrawal, heads back over during the night. Your troops safely withdraw across the Rappahannock the following night, conceding the battlefield to Lee.

Once again, Lee has defied the odds by out-



Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee has won a string of hard-fought victories against the Army of the Potomac since taking charge of the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1862. On several occasions, Lee simply "outgeneraled" his Union counterparts.

A Notice from the Editor

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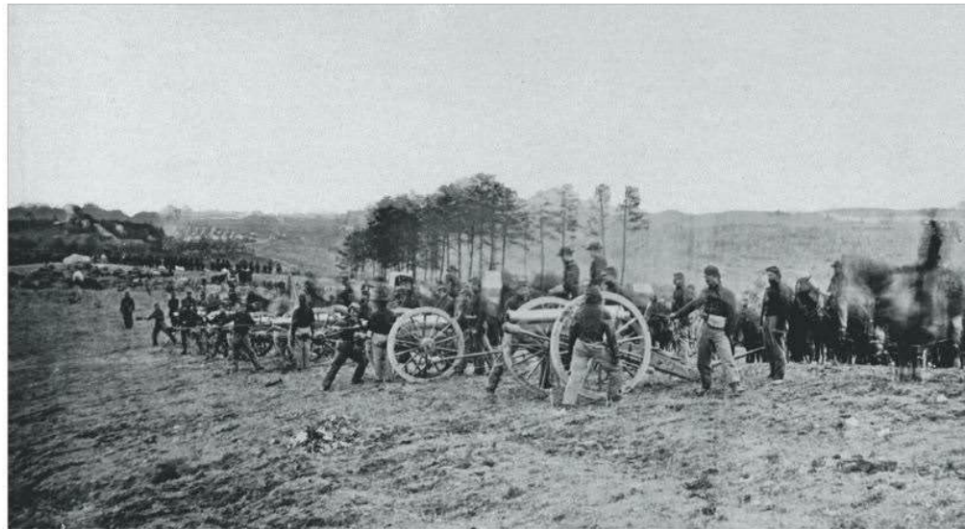


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In past battles your predecessors have wasted your army's



May 2, 1863. Union artillery goes into action on the south bank of the Rappahannock River.

generating an Army of the Potomac commander. Lincoln is unlikely to leave you in command. Who the embattled president might choose to replace you remains to be seen.

COURSE OF ACTION THREE: ATTACK

Although you had resolved not to waste your army in futile attacks, your flanking maneuver and subsequent forward movements have created an excellent opportunity to smash Lee's army once and for all. Your advance units of Meade's and Slocum's corps have cleared the dense Wilderness and have moved into more open terrain with good fields of fire. Moreover, with the main part of Lee's army out in the open and no longer behind defensive works at Fredericksburg, his men are outnumbered and vulnerable. You decide to attack with everything you have.

In past battles your predecessors have wasted your army's numerical advantage by launching piecemeal, uncoordinated attacks that allowed the Confederates to concentrate against and defeat each attack in turn. This time, however, you intend to deliver a powerful blow to split Lee's army and destroy it.

After ordering Meade to seize Bank's Ford, a move that more closely links Sedgwick's force at Fredericksburg with the rest of the army, you direct Sedgwick to send Reynolds' I Corps to join Meade as quickly as possible. You

also order Sedgwick to attack Confederate defenses at Fredericksburg, ensuring that Lee's men there remain fixed in place and unable to join the main Rebel force. Next, you move Couch's II Corps to a position behind Meade's right flank. Once joined by Reynolds and Couch, Meade will have a powerful attack force of three corps. Finally, you mass numerous corps artillery batteries at a central location near the juncture of Meade's V Corps and Slocum's XII Corps. Situated on terrain offering good fields of fire, the massed artillery can support Meade's attack or, if necessary, help Slocum repel any Rebel assault on your right.

To ensure that your right flank is secure from a Confederate attack or any attempt to maneuver around it to reach your army's rear, you order Sickles' III Corps to a position on the right of Slocum's XII Corps. Unsure of the fighting ability of Howard's XI Corps – your weakest corps under your most inexperienced commander – you keep it in a reserve position near Chancellorsville.

At 2 p.m., as your men prepare to launch their attack, Lee strikes first. Amid a chorus of Rebel yells, thousands of Confederate infantrymen supported by artillery hit the right of your line. Striking Slocum's corps, the Confederates surge forward, seemingly oblivious to the storm of cannon fire pounding them from your massed batteries. Clearly, Lee's intent is to turn your right flank, sweep around your line and strike your army's rear. The Con-

numerical advantage by launching piecemeal attacks.



federates fiercely press their attack, and XII Corps' line wavers. Yet just as leading Rebel units begin to break through Slocum's defenses, they are overcome and turned back by a flood of Union troops in a timely counterattack by Sickles' III Corps. Lee's attack fails and its survivors stream in retreat.

With Lee's assault on your right beaten back and his force at Fredericksburg engaged by Sedgwick's men, the Confederates are in serious trouble. This seems the perfect moment to launch Meade's three corps in an attack to fatally split the Army of Northern Virginia. However, you still have not received word that Reynolds' men have arrived. You cannot order Meade's attack to proceed piecemeal. To be decisive, it must be delivered by all three corps en masse. All you can do now is await news that Reynolds has arrived and is ready to join the attack.

From your position near the massed artillery batteries, you observe Confederate units maneuvering. Lee is obviously up to something, but it is unclear what he plans to do next. Based on his past behavior, however, you judge that he will likely attempt another attack, seeking a weak spot to break your line. It is only a matter of time before more Rebel yells split the air and waves of Confederate infantrymen rush forward.

Before the Confederates can strike, however, an officer on a sweat-lathered horse gallops up to you. You recognize him as one of Reynolds' aides-de-camp. Out of breath from a hard ride, the officer jumps down, salutes you and reports: "General Reynolds' compliments, sir. I Corps is in position and ready to advance." You immediately order Meade to launch his attack, and you direct your artillery batteries to begin hammering the enemy ranks.

Supported by a storm of artillery fire, waves of blue-clad infantrymen of I, II and V corps rush forward. The attack strikes Lee's Confederates while they are still in the process of organizing for their assault, and therefore they are in poor position to defend. Meade's

attack smashes Lee's army, splitting it in two and sending the remnants into a headlong retreat south toward Richmond.

Through your brilliant opening strategic maneuver followed by a mass attack, the Army of the Potomac has finally beaten Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

HISTORICAL COURSE OF ACTION AND ANALYSIS

Hooker chose **COURSE OF ACTION TWO: WITHDRAW AND DEFEND**, and the fighting unfolded as described in the COA Two narrative. Despite a brilliant opening maneuver that placed his army in position to cut off and destroy Lee's army, Hooker surrendered the battlefield initiative to the Confederate leader. By withdrawing into the tangled Wilderness and concentrating at Chancellorsville, Hooker helped Lee turn the tables through a Confederate flanking march and surprise attack by Jackson's men that shattered Howard's XI Corps and destroyed Union morale – including Hooker's. The result was another victory for Lee and another defeat for the Union Army of the Potomac.

Yet despite what is considered Lee's most stunning triumph of the war, the fatal wounding of Jackson on May 2 might constitute the most decisive result of the Battle of Chancellorsville. But whether killing Stonewall was worth 17,000 Union casualties remains a question for historians to ponder. And although Lee's aggressiveness won the battle, his army lost 22 percent of its troops (compared to Union losses of 13 percent) – manpower the South was hard-pressed to replace.

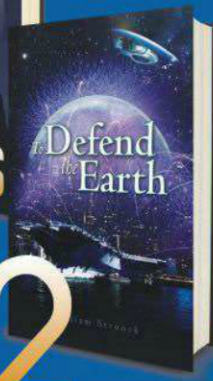
On June 28, 1863, Lincoln replaced Hooker with Major General George G. Meade, who went on to defeat Lee in the decisive July 1-3 Battle of Gettysburg. Meade remained commander of the Army of the Potomac until the end of the war.

Hooker reverted to corps command – a position to which he proved better suited – and provided solid service in the Civil War's Western Theater (Chattanooga and Atlanta campaigns, November 1863-August 1864). Hooker ended the war in an administrative post, commanding the Northern Department (October 1864-April 1865). ★

Colonel (Ret.) Richard N. Armstrong, author of "Soviet Operational Deception: The Red Cloak," is an adjunct history professor at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



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will@gulfwarone.com

The First Aryan Blitzkrieg

Over three millennia before Hitler's "lightning warfare," chariot-borne Aryan warriors overran the ancient world.

The chariots of Mursilis I, grandson of the Hittite Empire's founder, were nearing the end of their raid that had started nearly 1,000 miles away in central Anatolia. They had moved so fast, they outsped the news of their coming. The chariot-borne Hittites burst through the open gates of unsuspecting Babylon, sacked the greatest city in the world, and ended the ancient Mesopotamian dynasty founded by Hammurabi. It was an "Aryan blitzkrieg" – in 1595 B.C.

The innovative creation of the light two-wheeled chariot changed the world of the second millennium B.C. as much as the automobile revolutionized the 20th century. Although the horse-drawn chariot had existed previously, this new

technologically advanced model was a marvel of construction that far outstripped anything before it. Combined with the more sophisticated training of the horse and the introduction of the powerful recurve bow, the new chariot was a lethal war machine that overran foot-soldier armies of the ancient world from Greece to India – much as Adolf Hitler's German panzers employing blitzkrieg would do over 3,500 years later.

This ancient blitzkrieg arrived with its creators, an Indo-European people, whom it is more accurate to refer to by the far more ancient name "Aryan" – a term preserved in the name "Iran," which the Persians have long called "Home of the Aryans." These Aryan people had settled in what is today's Transcaucasus, the wooded and rich lands of modern Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and northeastern Turkey. The region's variety of

FAST FACTS

EVENT: Aryan-led revolution in warfare (chariot) and resulting conquests

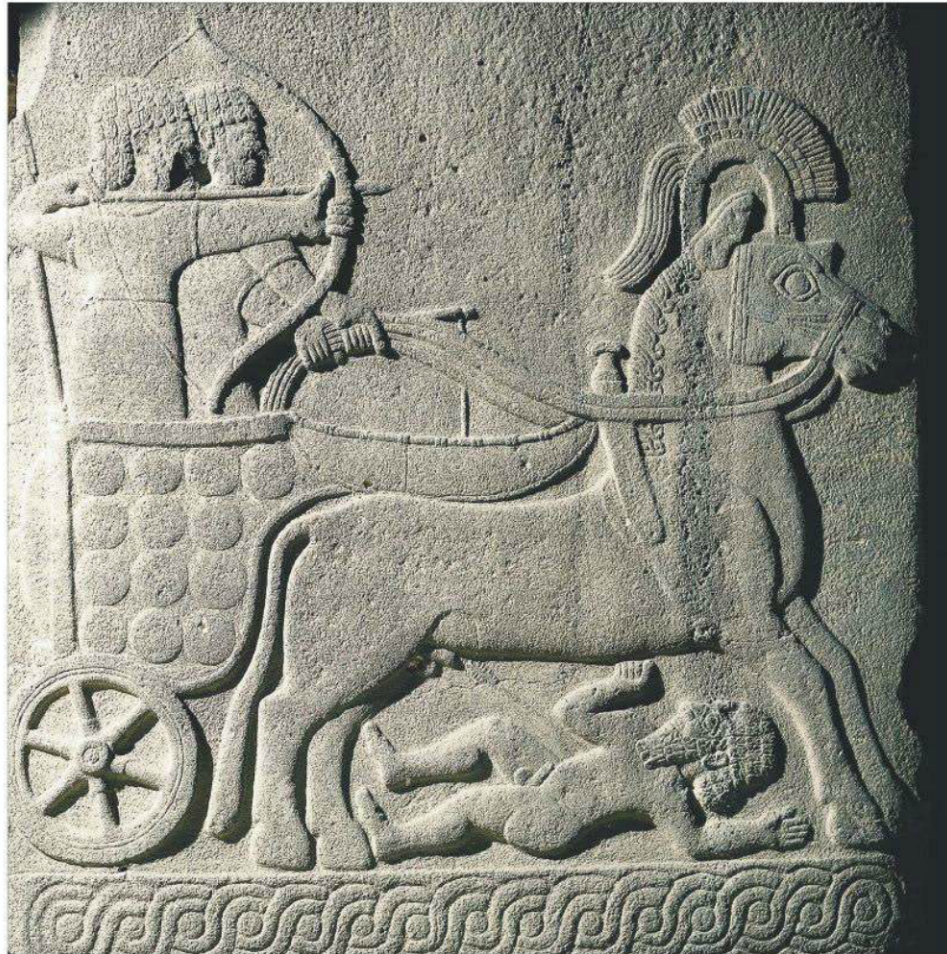
DATES: 1700-1500 B.C.

KEY LEADERS: Mursilis I of Hatti, reigned c. 1620-1590 B.C.; Ahmose I of Egypt, reigned c. 1550-1525 B.C.; Kikkuli, master horse trainer of the Mitanni, c. 1400 B.C.

KEY CONCEPTS: Efficient and light two-wheeled chariot, well-trained horses, recurve bow

MILESTONES: c. 1700 B.C. – Hyksos began conquest of Egypt; c. 1600 B.C. – Proto-Greeks conquered Greece; c. 1595 B.C. – Hittites sacked Babylon; c. 1530 B.C. – Hyksos expelled from Egypt; c. 1500 B.C. – Mitanni Empire founded, Maryannu began conquest of India

Light two-wheeled chariots, combined with well-trained horses and powerful recurve bows, propelled the Hittites to power in the ancient world.



DEAN, SEEMULLER/DE AGOSTINI/GETTY IMAGES

Massed charging chariots flying behind a rain of arrows were once a marvel of early military technology – and a terror to those in their path.

trees provided wood with the special qualities needed to create the new lightweight, highly mobile chariot.

The Aryans appeared first as mercenaries hired by established kingdoms, where they were made important vassals and awarded estates that supported the great expense of chariots, horses and retainers. Aryan names may be among those of the Hyksos conquerors of a weakened Egypt beginning after 1700 B.C. The Hyksos were Semitic Amorites from Canaan, and even if there were no Aryans among them, they had fully absorbed the Aryan chariot technology. As time passed, however, evidence of an Aryan presence in Canaan and Syria became overwhelming, as indicated by the Aryan names of the rulers of the most important cities in these areas. The names invariably evoke the horse, chariot and war.



This ancient basalt relief depicts Hittite warriors armed with spears and shields marching into battle.

The early Aryans formed a symbiotic relationship with the Hurrians who inhabited eastern Anatolia and northern Mesopotamia. In the power vacuum left by the fall of Babylon, an Aryan warrior elite propelled the Hurrians into a powerful empire known as Mitanni around 1500 B.C. that would last several hundred years. Throughout the ancient Middle East, the Aryans comprised only a small ruling elite that eventually was absorbed by the masses they ruled. Yet even when the Aryan language was no longer spoken, Aryan influence on warfare continued, as evidenced in a preserved ancient handbook on the conditioning of chariot horses written by Kikkuli, “master trainer of the land of the Mitanni.” Found in the Hittite archives in Hittite and Akkadian translations from Hurrian, the book retains the technical Indo-European terms of the Aryan language.

Ironically, the only areas where the Aryans left a lasting linguistic and ethnic mark were those at the geographical extremes of Aryan expansion, Greece and India, where they apparently settled in large numbers. Around 1600 B.C., an estimated 100,000 Proto-Greek speakers crossed the Aegean Sea to overwhelm the small kingdoms of mainland Greece and found the civilization reflected in Homer’s works and the Greek Bronze Age. There, the Aryans’ sky gods eventually displaced the natives’ mother goddesses.

One of the few archaeological finds that can be dated to a specific event in Aryan history was the discovery of a collection of lapis lazuli cylinder seals in the ruins of the Greek Bronze Palace in Thebes – items considered appropriate royal gifts from one great king to another. The seals were from Babylon, and none were dated later than the Hittite sack of the city. Clearly, the seals were loot, carefully preserved in the Hittite

treasury until they were sent as a gift to the powerful ruler of Thebes.

A century or so later, another large Aryan group arrived in India’s Indus River valley to begin a long conquest of the native Dravidian population. The event was immortalized in the Rig Vedas sacred texts. These epics mentioned the same Aryan sky gods worshipped in Mitanni as well as specific personal names. They also described the master horse trainer as a man of high prestige, using the same term given to Kikkuli of Mitanni. The conquerors throughout the Middle East and India were identified by the same name: the Marya, meaning the young warriors. In the Middle East these warriors were known by the Hurrian plural, Maryannu. The genetic evidence of the Aryan conquest of India is telling in the Hindu caste system. The higher, more light-skinned castes show the occurrence of European Y-chromosome DNA, while the mitochondrial DNA is native Dravidian. Apparently, Aryan conquerors arrived without their women and took native females as wives, cementing their control by imposing a caste system based on Aryan blood.

Four great kingdoms were recognized as the major powers at the height of the Bronze Age in the Middle East: Hatti (Hittites), Egypt, Mitanni, and Ahhiyawa (Achaea) in Greece. Mitanni and Achaea were both Aryan founded, and Hatti was heavily Aryan influenced; but all four kingdoms relied on Aryan chariot warfare as their means of gaining and holding power. The Egyptian 18th dynasty in Thebes under Pharaoh Ahmose I mastered chariot warfare so well that by circa 1535 B.C. it expelled the Hyksos – whose chariots had conquered Egypt two centuries earlier. As these four empires competed in the ensuing centuries, battles involving thousands of Aryan-style chariots were recorded.

The chariot’s supremacy in ancient warfare eventually faded with the collapse of the civilization of the Late Bronze Age and the arrival of the Iron Age. Yet massed charging chariots flying behind a rain of arrows were once a marvel of early military technology – and a terror to those in their path. ★

Peter Tsouras is the author of 26 books on military history. He served in the Army and Army Reserve and worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency until retiring in 2010 to devote himself to writing, his roses and his grandchildren.

1 XCOM (xcom.com), which many believe is the best turn-based strategy game ever created, is made even better with the release of *XCOM: Enemy Unknown*. Developed by Firaxis (Sid Meier and company), the game features an elite organization called XCOM that is tasked with combating an alien invasion. Players control a squad of up to six soldiers who attack alien bases, intercept abductions and take down alien soldiers.

The action in *Enemy Unknown* takes place in a variety of locations, ranging from a rain-drenched street in Moscow to a burned-out bridge in the heartland of America. The XCOM soldiers wield an array of interesting weapons, from assault rifles to plasma guns, and boast deadly skill sets. Some soldiers are snipers, some are assault types who run and gun, and others are heavy weapons specialists.

The tense squad-level skirmishes would be enough to make this game great, but they aren't the only course on the XCOM plate. Besides fighting aliens, players must manage research to access new technology, engineering to build new weapons and facilities, and recruitment to expand the ranks. In addition, they must ensure XCOM's member nations have satellite coverage, or else those nations will exit the organization and leave it stranded without money.

XCOM: Enemy Unknown offers an exciting challenge. It is a great game that is highly recommended.

2 Dan Verssen Games is renowned for its solitaire air combat games. *Phantom Leader* is one of the company's best titles, and now it is available for the iPad 2 and above.



XCOM: Enemy Unknown marks the return of a beloved classic with an engaging campaign that is sure to please turn-based strategy gamers.



Phantom Leader for the iPad stays close to its board game roots while still offering exciting and enthralling gameplay.



Frontline Tactics features a realistic world setting and a range of missions that are as demanding as they are entertaining.

Phantom Leader for the iPad (itunes.apple.com) puts gamers in the role of a U.S. Navy or Air Force squadron leader. As commanders, the players design strike packages and allocate pilots to execute the assigned missions. However, they must remember that while some pilots perform better than others, the best ones will wear out if chosen every time.

Politicians in Washington can further complicate matters for squad leaders. At times they designate the level of force that can be used, the altitude from which an attack can occur, and set many other annoying parameters.

Phantom Leader offers players a fascinating challenge, as the artificial intelligence ensures that even the toughest pilots have their hands full. But on the downside, the game could use a spell-checker.

3 *Frontline Tactics* (full control.dk) is a turn-based, free-to-play game for the PC, Mac and iPad. It is set in the near future and allows players to control an elite group of modern soldiers as they battle against terrorists.

The game boasts nice rules for cover, flanking fire, and "burst weapons" for striking multiple targets, but it does have some shortcomings. Thumbs up for the reasonably nice graphics, great concept and giveaway price, but thumbs down for the incredibly difficult missions that leave players no recourse but to purchase better weapons and troops from within the game. ★

Mark H. Walker is a retired U.S. Navy commander and veteran electronic entertainment/IT journalist who designed the critically acclaimed board wargames "Lock 'n Load" and "World at War." He has authored or contributed to over 40 books, including his novel "Everyone Dies in the End."

REVIEWS WARGAME REVIEW

GAME BUZZ P.76

WARGAME REVIEW P.77

MUST-READ / MUST-SEE P.78

ARMCHAIR GENERAL'S FIVE-STAR RATING SCALE:

★★★★★ = ACG'S HIGHEST RECOMMENDATION
★★★★ = EXCELLENT
★★★ = GOOD
★★ = BELOW AVERAGE
★ = NOT RECOMMENDED

Decisive Campaigns: Case Blue

Decisive Campaigns: Case Blue is a turn-based operational-level game covering the German summer offensive in Russia in 1942. Players maneuver regiments across a vast hex field encompassing southern Russia from Kharkov to the Caucasus.

The well-designed interface makes playing this detailed, historically accurate game easy because it provides the necessary information to plan and carry out each turn. The game emphasizes proper command and control at corps and division levels. Having the right commanders in charge makes an enormous difference, and their influence is further enhanced by the innovative use of battle cards that represent their actions on the battlefield.



Decisive Campaigns: Case Blue is sure to delight Eastern Front aficionados with its new and improved game engine and campaign scenarios.

★
ARMCHAIR GENERAL

ACG RATES THIS GAME
★★★★★

DIFFICULTY RATING Hard

TIME TO LEARN Two hours

MULTIPLAYER Play by email

FAVORITE FAN SITE Matrixgames.com

FAVORITE UNIT/WEAPON
14th Panzer Division

MOST EXCITING ASPECT Conducting deep encirclement operations

BEST SCENARIO 2d Kharkov

BEST REASON TO BUY
Excellent operational-level game

DECISIVE CAMPAIGNS: CASE BLUE

Strategic War in Europe

Strategic War in Europe is a turn-based traditional-style wargame depicting all aspects of the war in Europe and the Middle East from 1939 through 1945. Gamers can play as any of 25 countries, but realistically they choose between Russia, the Axis and the Western Allies.

Players use diplomacy to entice other nations to join their cause, and historically scripted events pop up at the appropriate times. Fundamentally, players manage a simplified economy and a research and development program to build the armed forces needed to meet the enemy on the hex-covered field of battle.

Maneuver units include corps, armies, air forces and fleets. Ground combat is odds based, influenced by supply, ter-



Strategic War in Europe is an excellent choice for those who are new to wargaming or for veterans looking for some quick turn-based fun.

★
ARMCHAIR GENERAL

ACG RATES THIS GAME
★★★★★

DIFFICULTY RATING Medium

TIME TO LEARN One Hour

MULTIPLAYER
Play by email and hot seat

FAVORITE FAN SITE Matrixgames.com

FAVORITE UNIT/WEAPON Panzer Army

MOST EXCITING ASPECT Steamrolling the opponent

BEST SCENARIO 1939

BEST REASON TO BUY
Accessible grand strategy game

STRATEGIC WAR IN EUROPE

To conduct a successful attack, players must employ combined arms tactics in coordination with airpower in the correct sequence to create deep penetrations in enemy lines. The result is swirling battles of encirclement characteristic of the War in the East.

Intellectually challenging and depicting one of the most monumental struggles of World War II, Decisive Campaigns: Case Blue is a great example of traditional wargame design adapted to the computer.

GAME STATS:

MSRP \$39.99 Download;
\$49.99 Boxed
PUBLISHER Matrixgames.com
DEVELOPER Vrdesigns.nl
PLATFORM/PC SPECS Processor:
Intel Dual Core 1.5 GHz; RAM: 2 GB;
OS: XP, Vista, Windows 7; Video
Card: 8 MB; Hard Drive Space:
500 MB

rain, weather, and the quality of the troops and their respective commanders. Air forces provide essential reconnaissance and ground attack, while naval combat is more abstract.

Strategic War in Europe covers the basic elements of World War II strategy, making it a good introductory-level wargame. The game engine is simple and straightforward, and the game-play is quick and easy. ★

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Jeffrey Paulding is a lifelong student of military history and science. He has been playing wargames since he was a child.

GAME STATS:

MSRP \$14.99 Download;
\$24.99 Boxed
PUBLISHER Matrixgames.com
DEVELOPER
Wastelands-interactive.com
PLATFORM/PC SPECS Processor:
Dual Core 1.5 GHz; RAM: 1 GB; OS:
XP, Vista, Windows 7; Video: 256
MB Card, Direct X 9.0c; Hard Drive
Space: 500 MB

REVIEWS MUST-READ / MUST-SEE

GAME BUZZ P.76

WARGAME REVIEW P.77

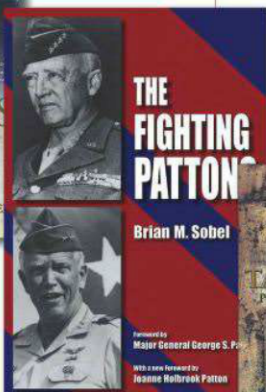
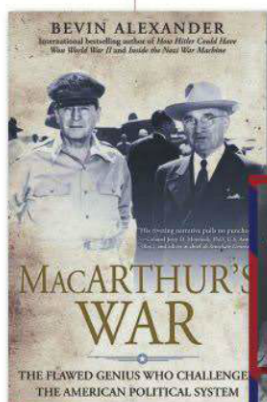
MUST-READ / MUST-SEE P.78

Must-Read Books

MacArthur's War: The Flawed Genius Who Challenged the American Political System by Bevin Alexander (Berkley Hardcover, 2013). Alexander once again demonstrates his superb mastery of the historian's craft as he tackles head-on American history's most famous and controversial incident of civil-military conflict – the 1951 clash between the feisty U.S. President Harry Truman and the nation's most revered military hero, General Douglas MacArthur. The book is at once a compelling account of the Truman-MacArthur confrontation and an outstanding history of America's unfairly “forgotten war” in Korea.

The Fighting Pattons by Brian M. Sobel (Indiana University Press, 2013). Sobel's updated version of his acclaimed history of a remark-

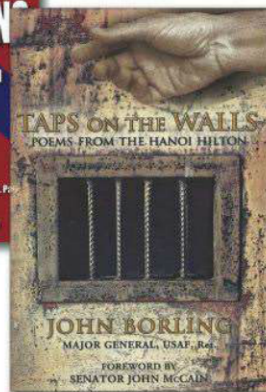
able military family focuses on the legendary World War II battlefield genius General George S. Patton Jr. (1885-1945) and his son, Major General George



Smith Patton (1923-2004), who forged his own distinguished military career in the Korean and Vietnam wars. When the book was first published in 1997, renowned historian and Patton scholar Martin Blumenson hailed it as “strong, stirring and inspiring ... a stunning account.” This latest version

includes a new foreword by Joanne Holbrook Patton, wife of the younger Patton.

Taps on the Walls: Poems From the Hanoi Hilton by retired USAF Major General John Borling (Master Wings Publishing, 2013). During the six years and eight months Borling spent as a prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton,” he survived by composing and memorizing poems, which he shared with the other captives by painstakingly tap-



ping them out in code on the wall of his cell. This outstanding account of courage and sacrifice, which includes a fore-

word by fellow POW Senator John McCain, is the inaugural publication of Master Wings Publishing, an imprint of the Pritzker Military Library (pritzkermilitarylibrary.org).

More Editors' Picks:

Blackett's War: The Men Who Defeated the Nazi U-boats and Brought Science to the Art of Warfare by Stephen Budiansky (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013).

The Life and Fate of Vasily Grossman by John and Carol Garrard (Casemate/Pen and Sword, 2012).

Resolve: From the Jungles of WWII Bataan, the Epic Story of a Soldier, a Flag, and a Promise Kept by Bob Welch (Berkley Caliber, 2012).

Circle of Treason: A CIA Account of Traitor Aldrich Ames and the Men He Betrayed by Sandra Grimes and Jeanne Vertefeuille (Naval Institute Press, 2012).

The Drive on Moscow, 1941 by Niklas Zetterling and Anders Frankson (Casemate, 2012).

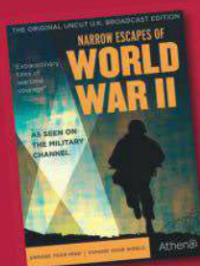
The Spanish Civil War by Stanley G. Payne (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

A Storm of Spears: Understanding the Greek Hoplite at War by Christopher Matthew (Casemate, 2012).

Operation KE: The Cactus Air Force and the Japanese Withdrawal From Guadalcanal by Roger and Dennis Letourneau (Naval Institute Press, 2012).



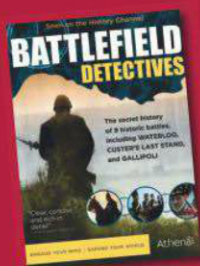
MUST-SEE DVDs



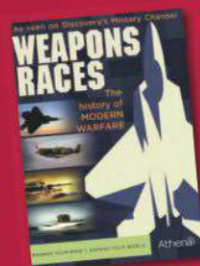
Narrow Escapes of World War II (Acorn Media, 2012). Four discs, 13 episodes, 653 minutes.



Secret War: The Secret Agents Who Set Europe Ablaze (Acorn Media, 2012). Four discs, 13 episodes, 656 minutes.



Battlefield Detectives: The Secret History of Nine Historic Battles (Athena, 2012). Three discs, nine episodes, 432 minutes.



Weapons Races: The History of Modern Warfare (Athena, 2011). Three discs, eight episodes, 400 minutes.

FROM LEFT: ACORN MEDIA, ACORN MEDIA, ATHENA, ATHENA

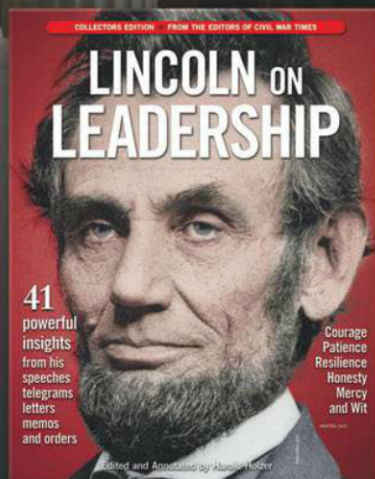
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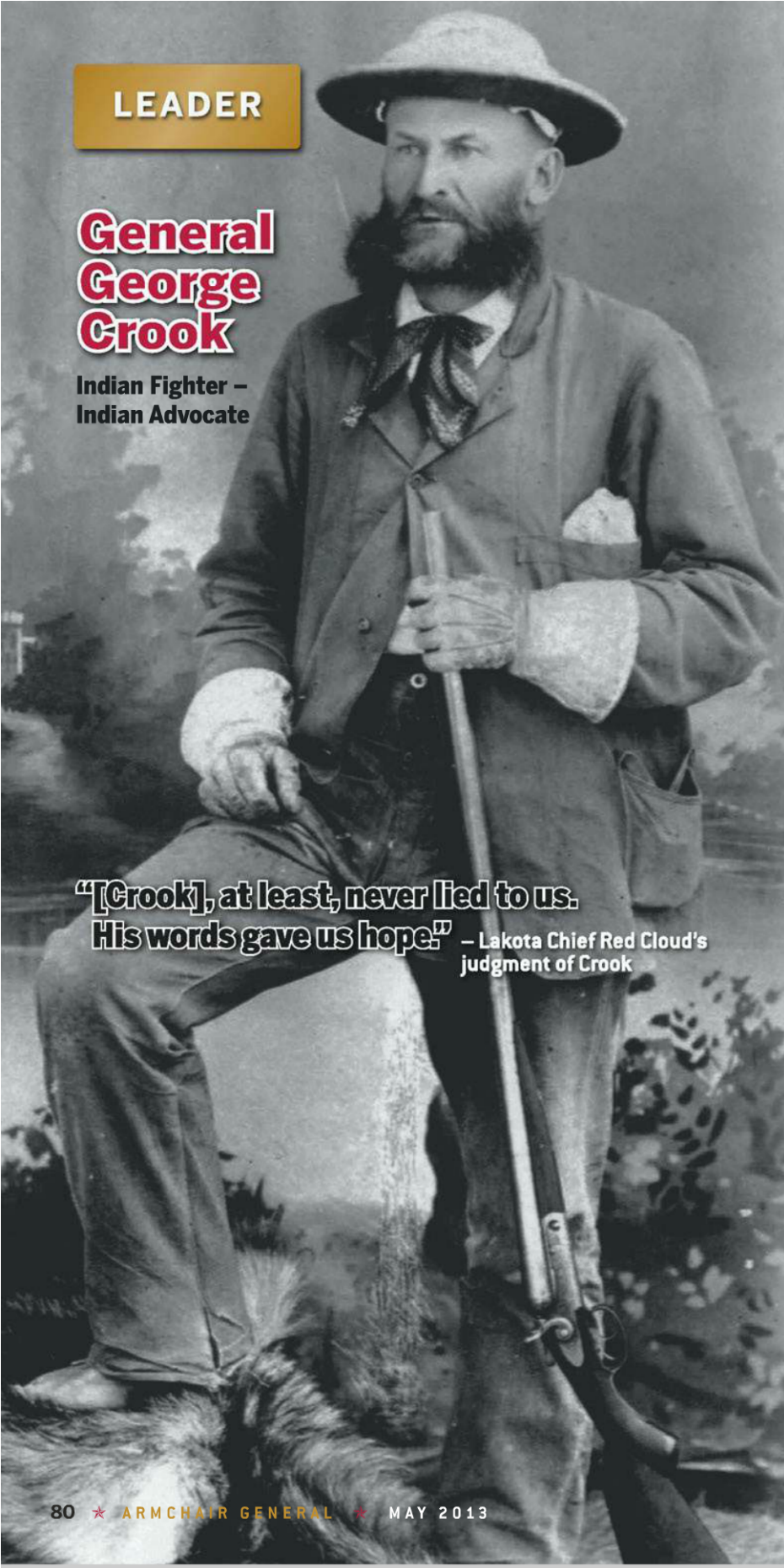
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A black and white portrait of General George Crook. He is a man with a full, dark beard and mustache, wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a dark, heavy coat over a vest and shirt. He is seated on a large, light-colored rock, holding a long rifle vertically in his right hand. The background is a soft-focus landscape with trees and a cloudy sky.

LEADER

General George Crook

Indian Fighter –
Indian Advocate

**“[Crook], at least, never lied to us.
His words gave us hope.”** – Lakota Chief Red Cloud’s
judgment of Crook

VITAL STATISTICS

Born in Taylorsville, Ohio, September 8, 1828 /
Served in the U.S. Army, 1852-90 / Died in
Chicago, Ill., March 21, 1890

CAREER HIGHS

Graduated from West Point, 1852 / Fought in
both the Eastern Theater and the Western
Theater of the American Civil War, 1861-65 /
Promoted to brigadier general, 1862 / One of
the Frontier Army’s most successful Indian
Wars commanders, 1865-86 / Developed inno-
vative Indian fighting tactics and used them
effectively against Apaches and other Western
tribes / Spent his final years advocating for
fair treatment of his former Indian foes

CAREER LOW

JUNE 17, 1876 – BATTLE OF THE ROSEBUD. While
leading the largest of three converging
columns in the 1876 Great Sioux War, Crook
and his men were suddenly attacked by 1,500
hostile Lakota and Cheyenne warriors. His
Indian allies bought time for his infantrymen
and cavalrymen to react, and the fighting
raged throughout the day. Although the Lakota
and Cheyenne finally withdrew, Crook decided
to retreat to his base, thus removing the
Army’s strongest force from the overall cam-
paign. Unaware of Crook’s battle and the deci-
sion to halt his campaigning, Lieutenant
Colonel George Custer and his 7th U.S. Cavalry
Regiment were disastrously beaten by Indian
warriors at the Battle of the Little Bighorn a
week later.

DEFINING MOMENT

SNAKE WAR, 1865-68. After the Civil War, Crook
gained national fame for the innovative and
highly successful Indian fighting tactics he
pioneered and employed against the Paiute,
Bannock and Shoshone tribes living along the
Snake River in the Pacific Northwest. During
the Snake War, he used Indians as scouts and
allies, created extremely mobile forces of cav-
alry and mounted infantry, and campaigned in
winter when the tribes were most vulnerable.
Crook also skillfully used “carrot and stick”
diplomacy with tribal leaders, securing final
victory in 1868. Later, he employed his Indian
fighting tactics to campaign successfully
against Apaches and other Western tribes.

★ Edited by Jerry Morelock,
“Armchair General” Editor in Chief.

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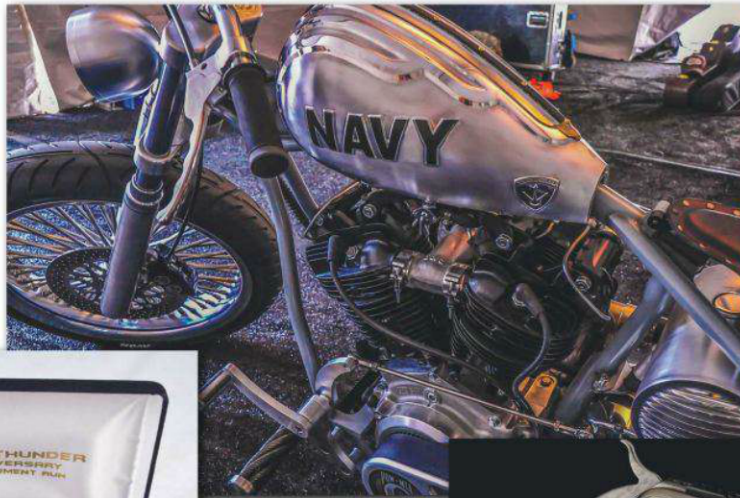
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